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Gill

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(54) **FISHING JIGS AND LURES AND MANUFACTURING METHODS**

(76) Inventor: **Andy T. Gill**, 15950 Avalon, Olathe, KS (US) 68062

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01K 85/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **43/42.53**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 43/42.53; 264/271.1, 275, 246, 255, 301
See application file for complete search history.

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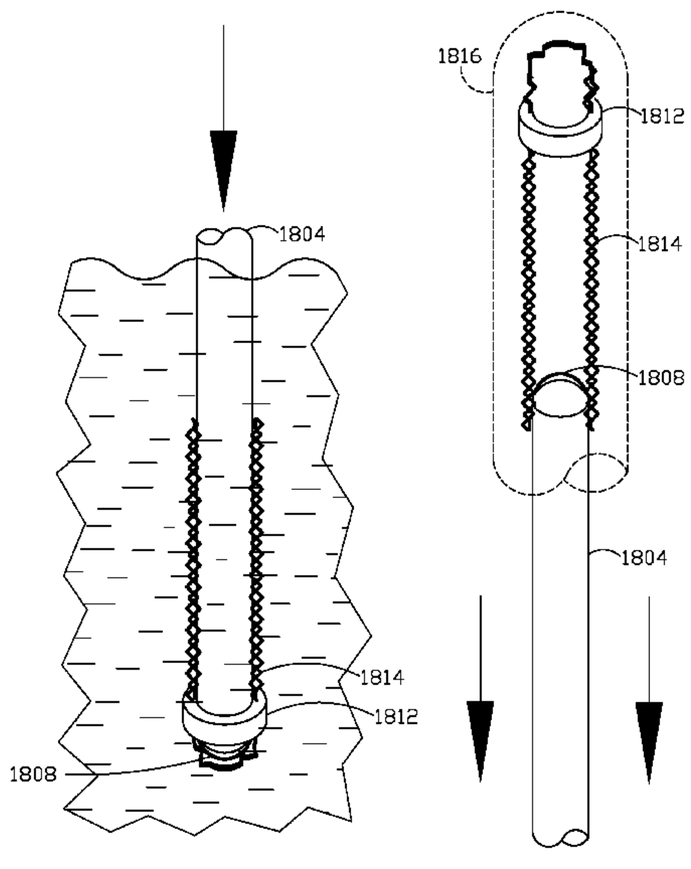
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Primary Examiner—Kurt Rowan
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Mark E. Brown

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A jig and bait fishing system is provided which includes various fanciful and realistic shapes for attracting and capturing fish. The system includes a body connected to a neck and a bait keeper; the neck being adapted for securing skirt material for avoiding underwater obstructions. The bait keeper secures bait and in particular internally reinforced artificial bait at the reinforced area in combination with the reinforcing material. The system also provides for a fishhook for capturing the fish and hooking the bait. The system includes a latch which prevents the fish from spitting-out the hook after capture. A method of manufacturing fishing jigs includes the steps of dipping rods into liquid plastic material and embedding reinforcing yarn filaments therein.

2 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets



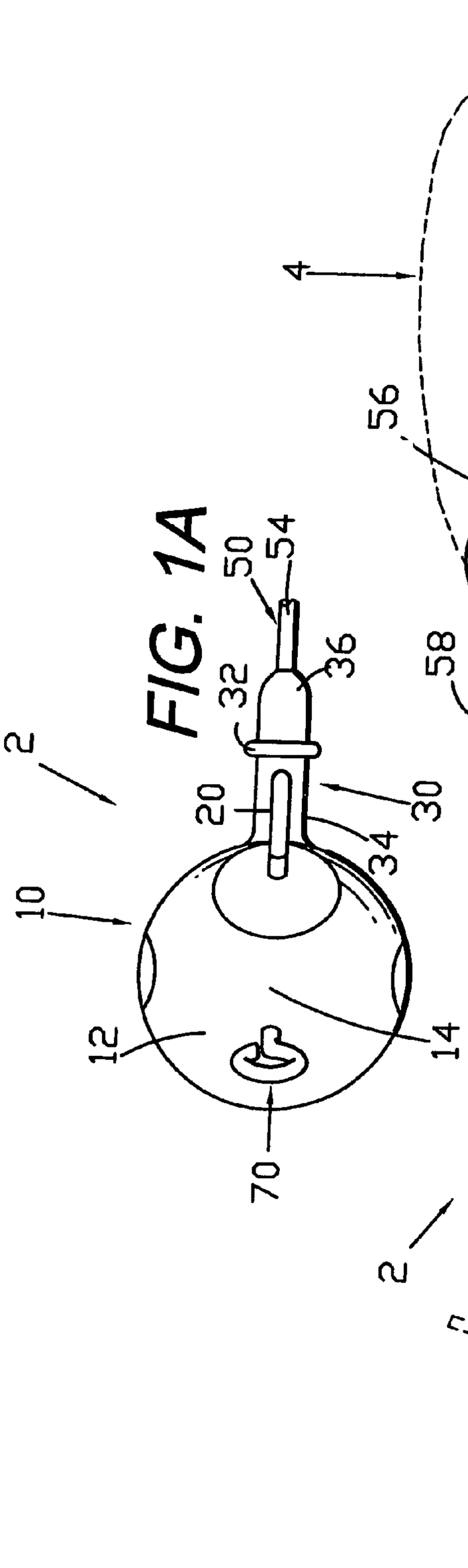

2
10
12
14
20
30
32
34
36
50
54
70

FIG. 1A

4
50
56
58
80
82
54
36
30
84
32
22
34
20
24
16
14
12
2
70
74
10

FIG. 1

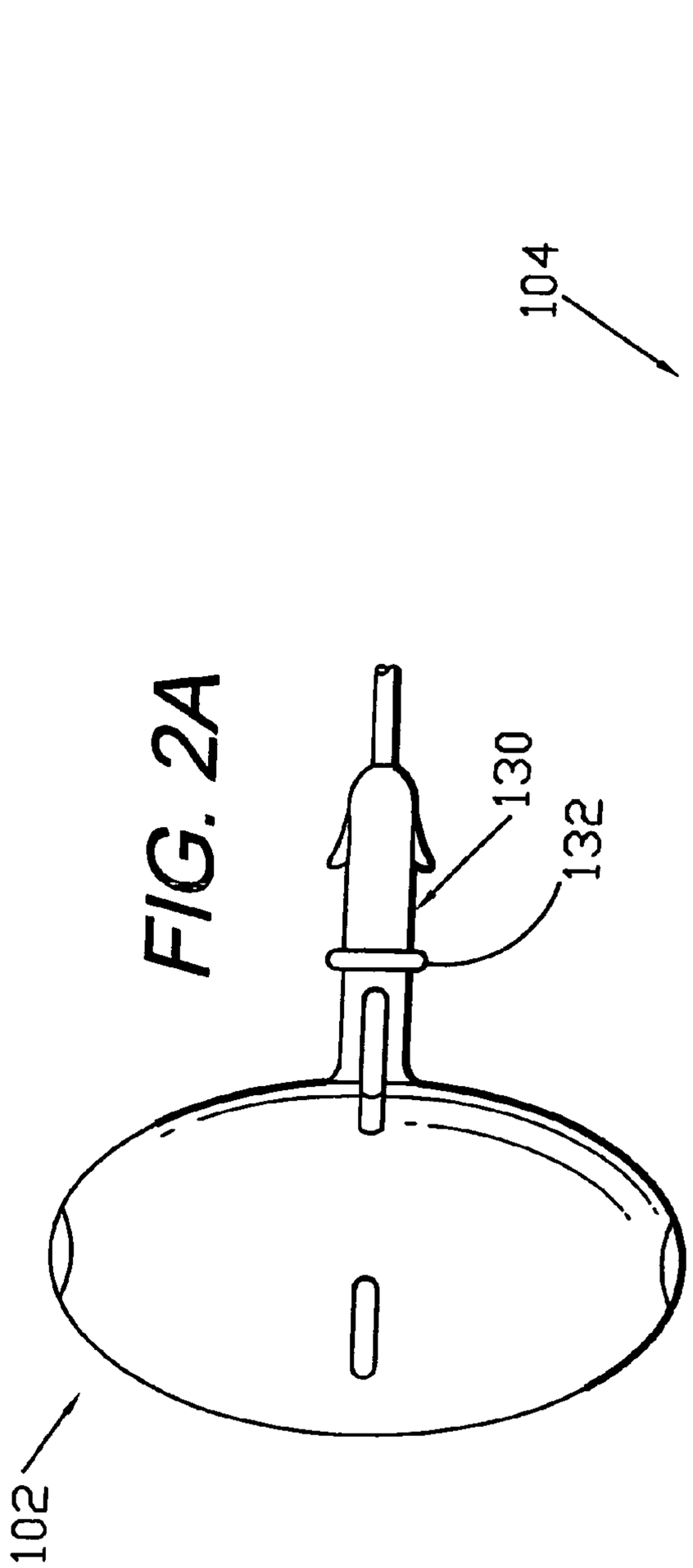


FIG. 2A

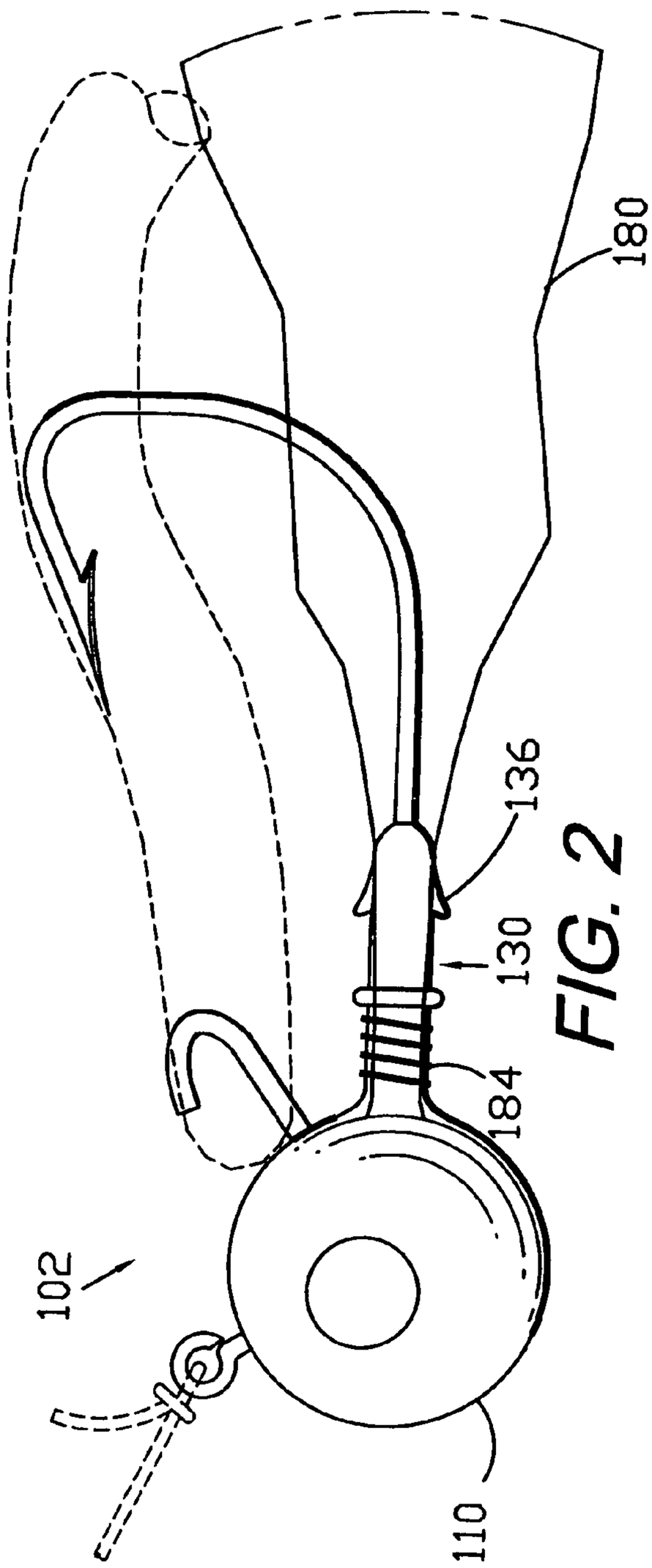


FIG. 2

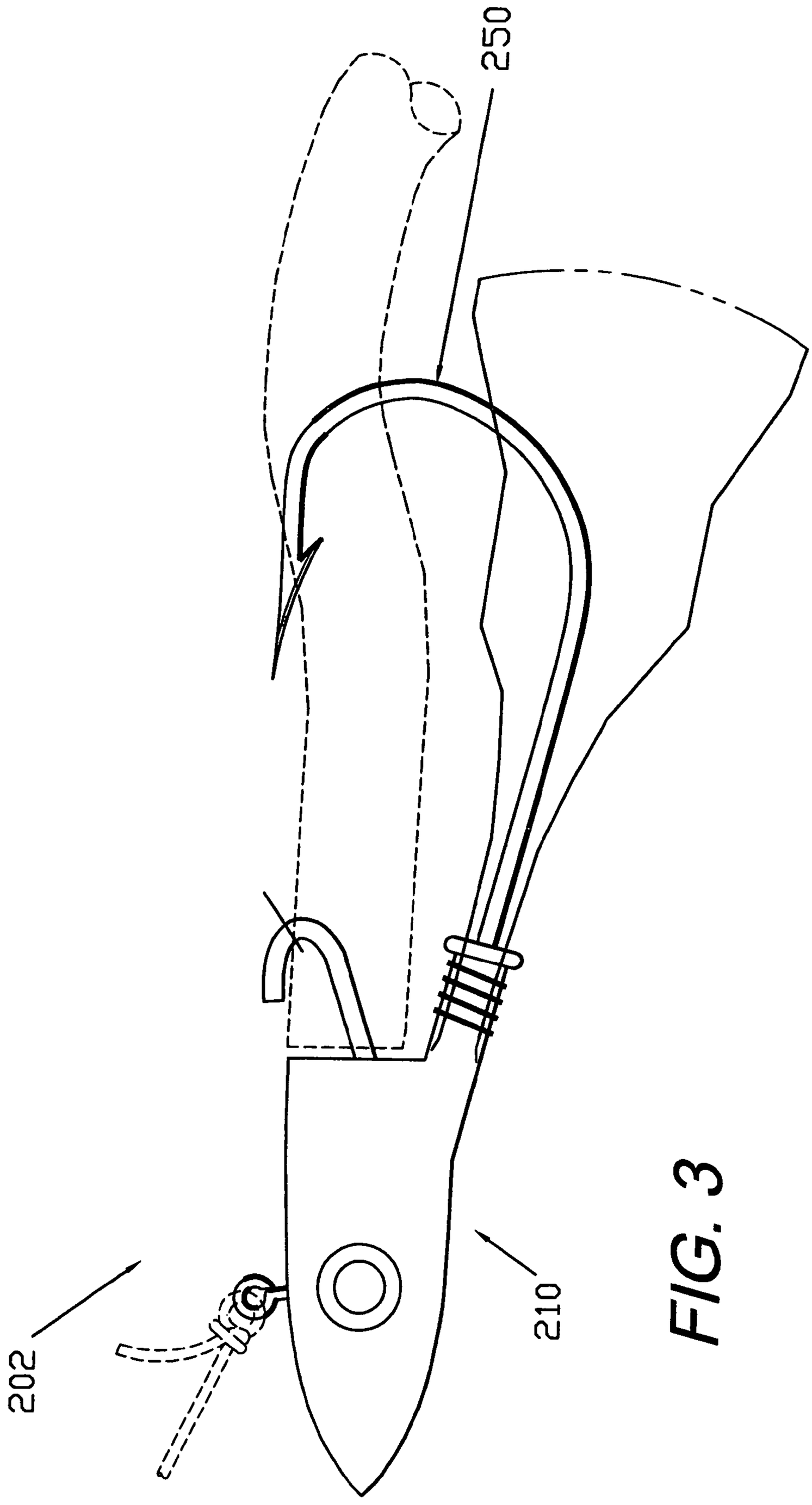


FIG. 3

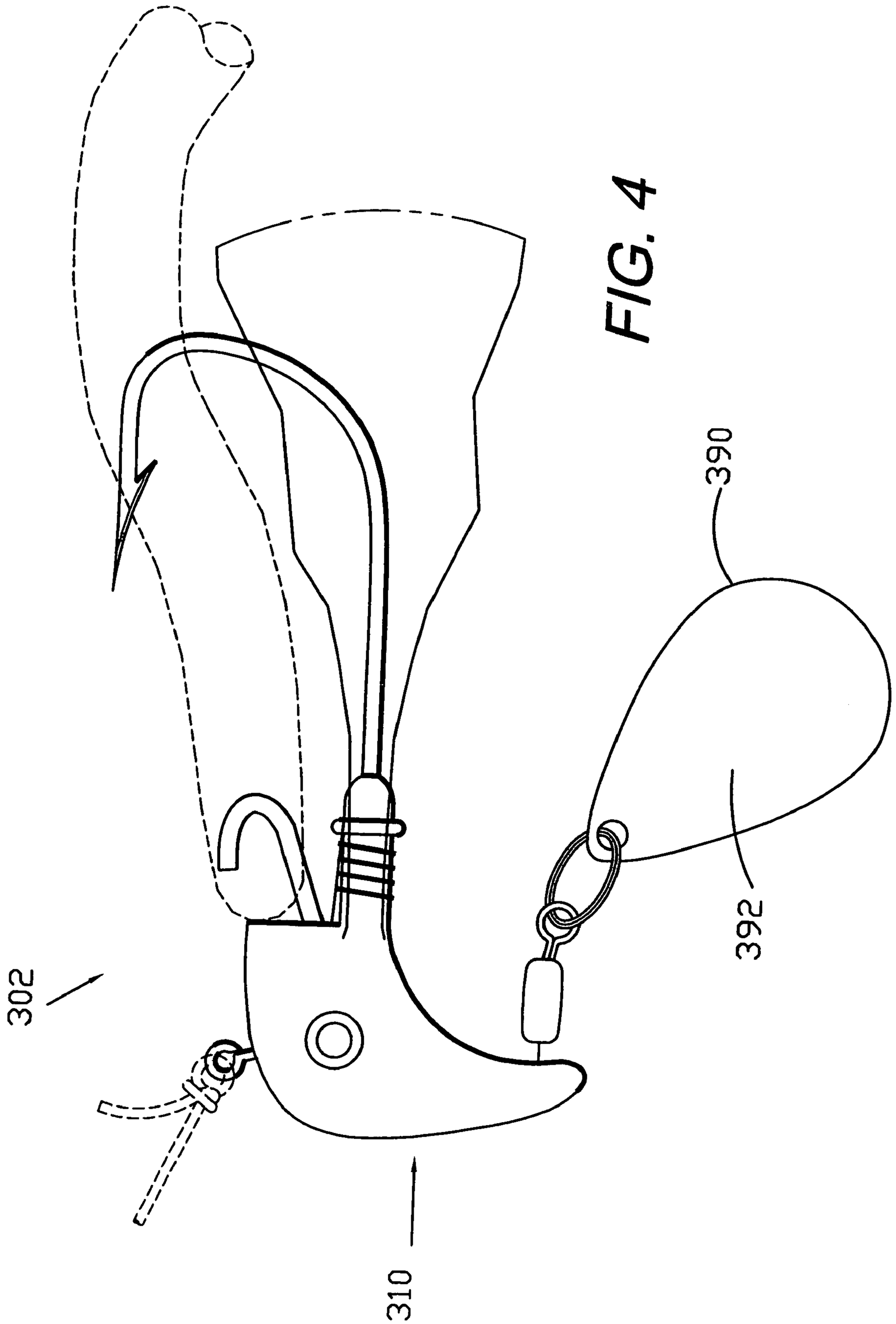
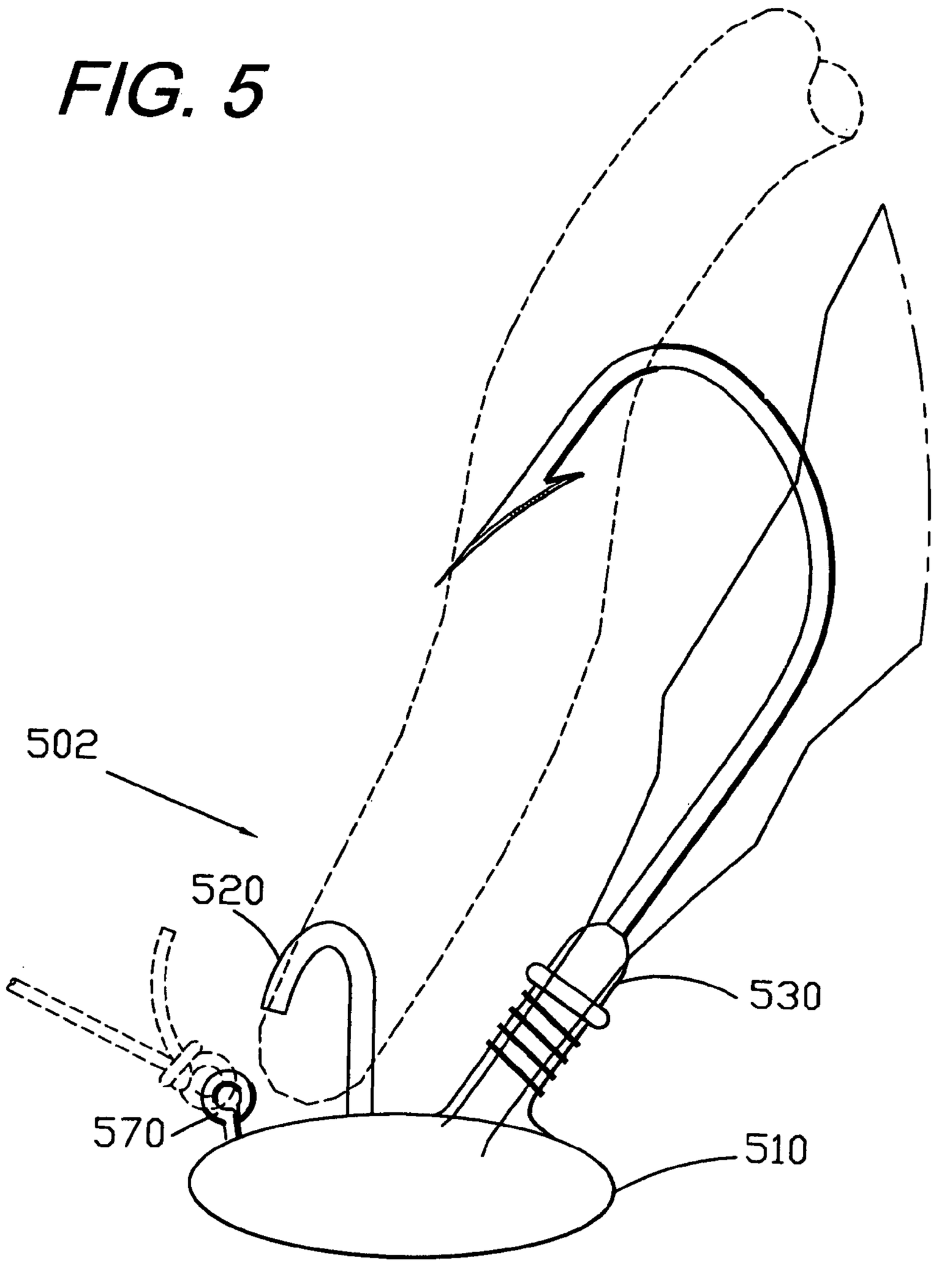


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



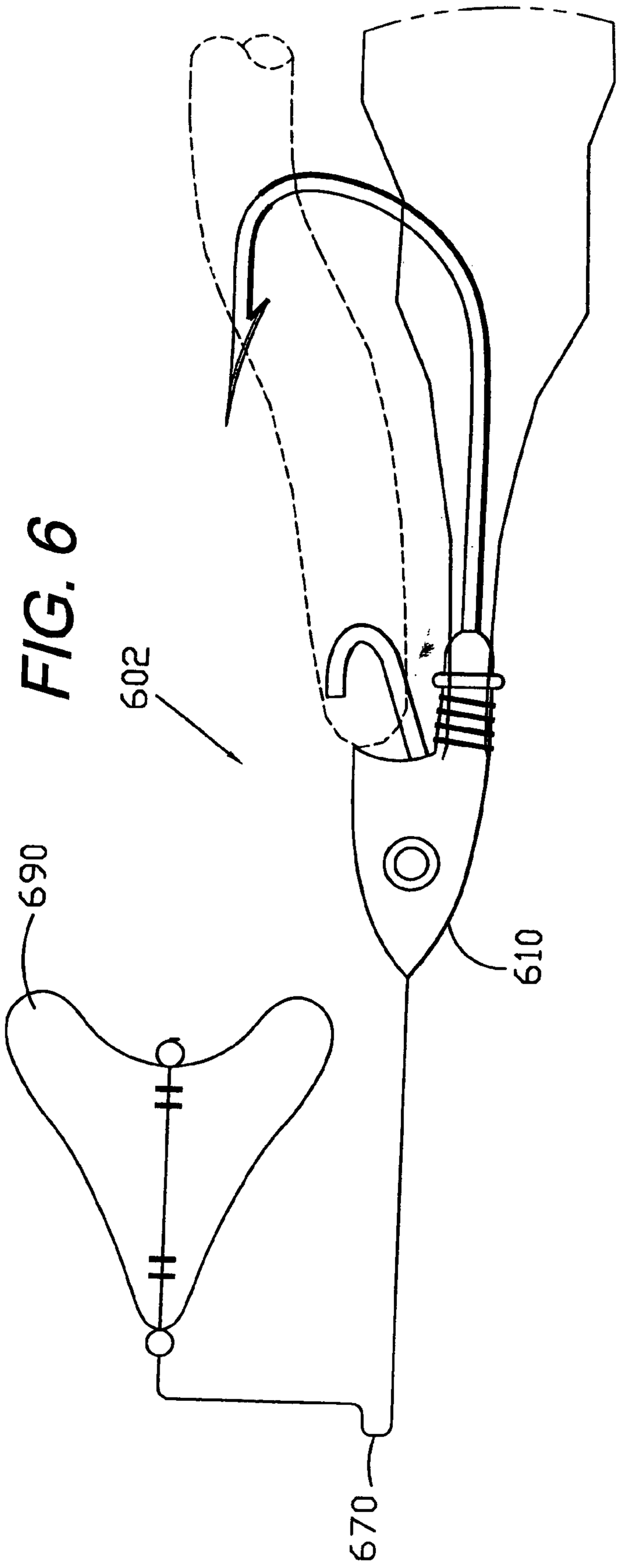
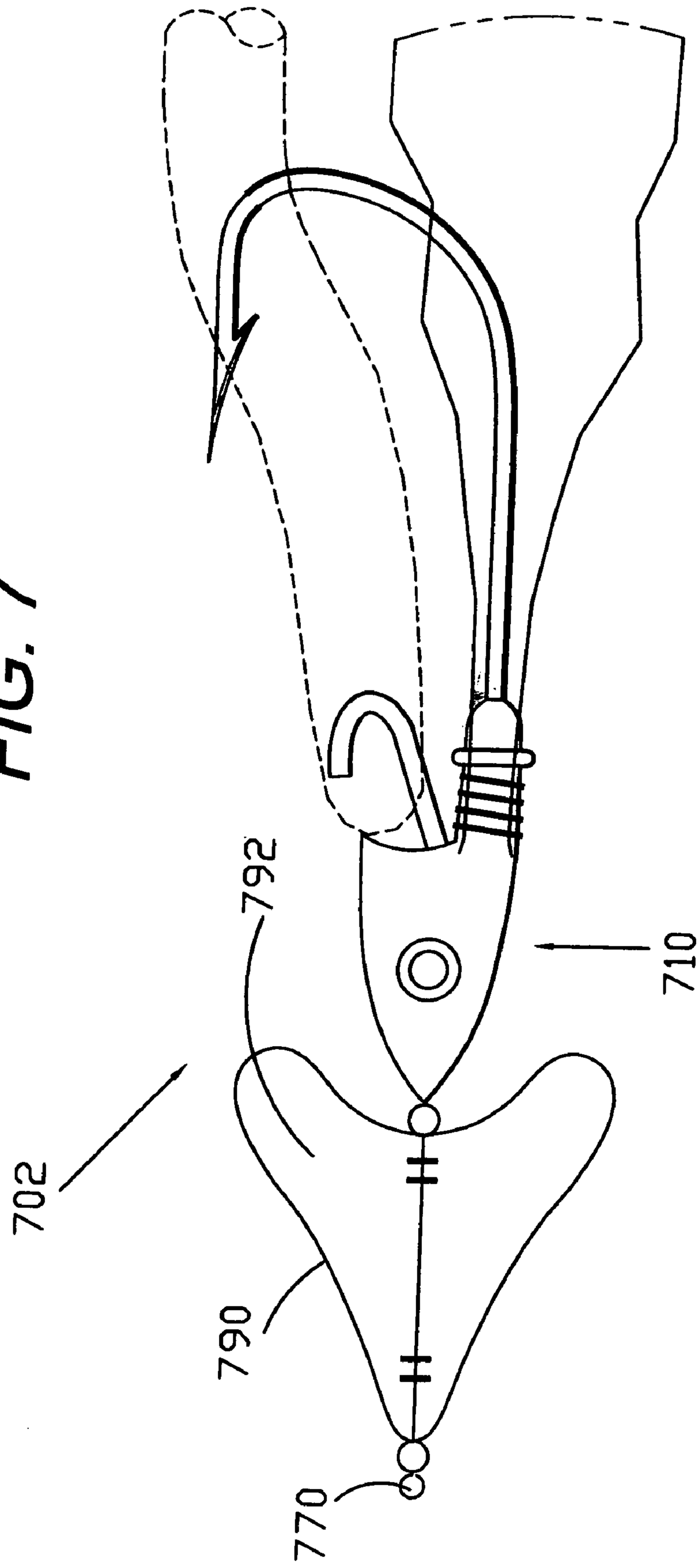


FIG. 6

FIG. 7



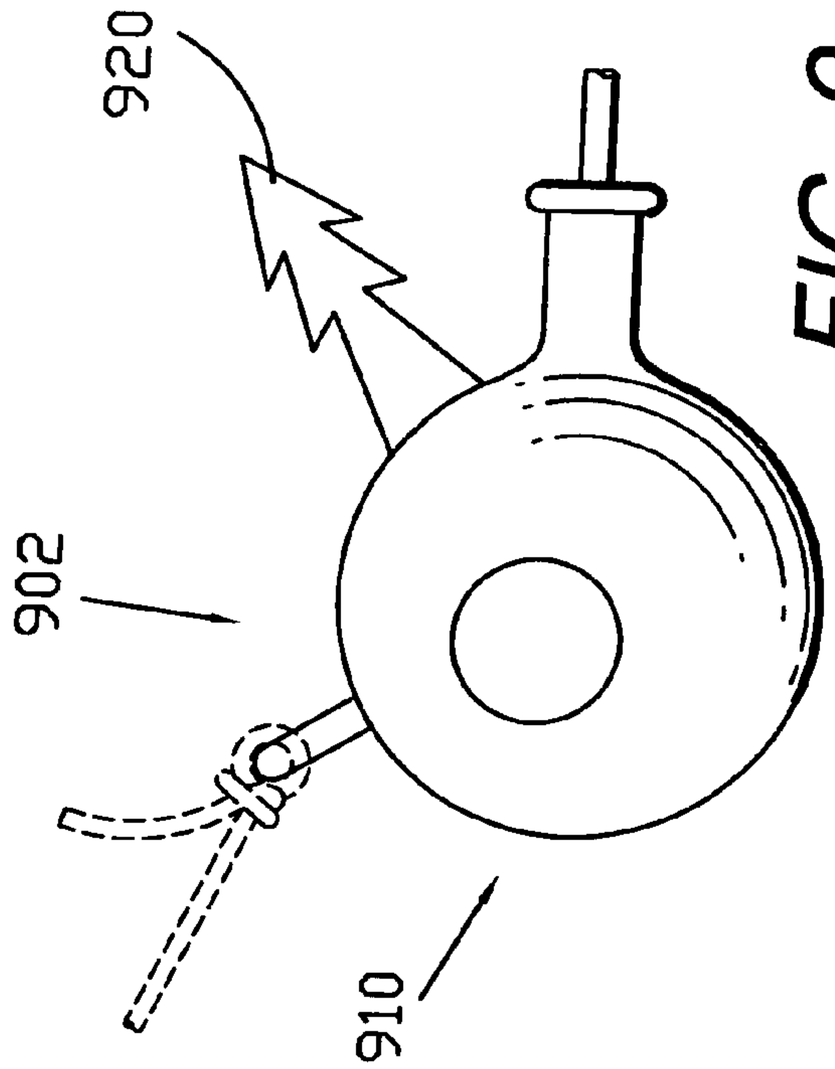


FIG. 9

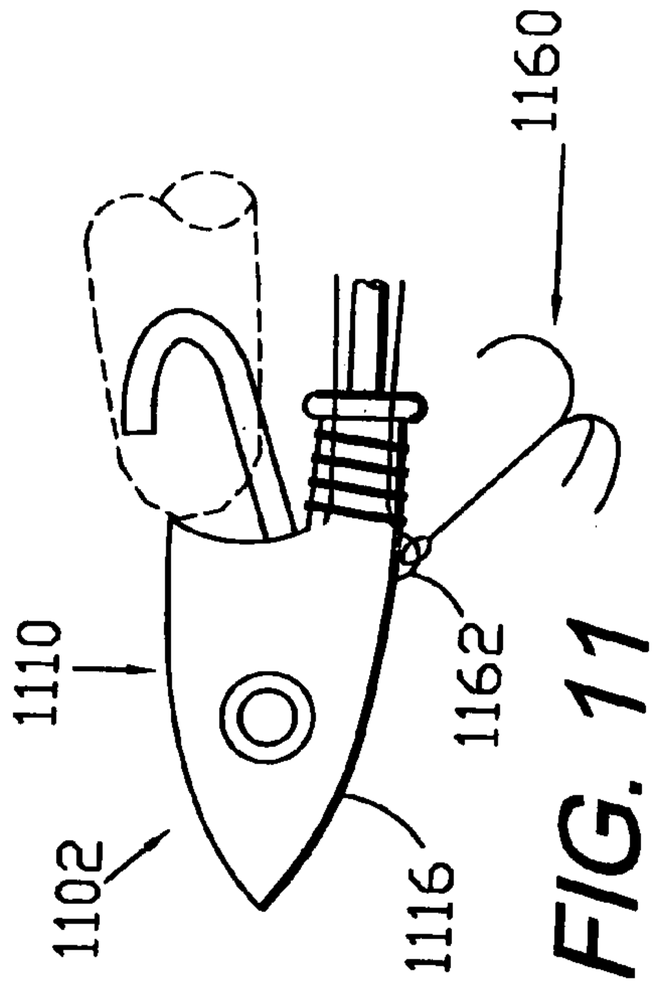


FIG. 11

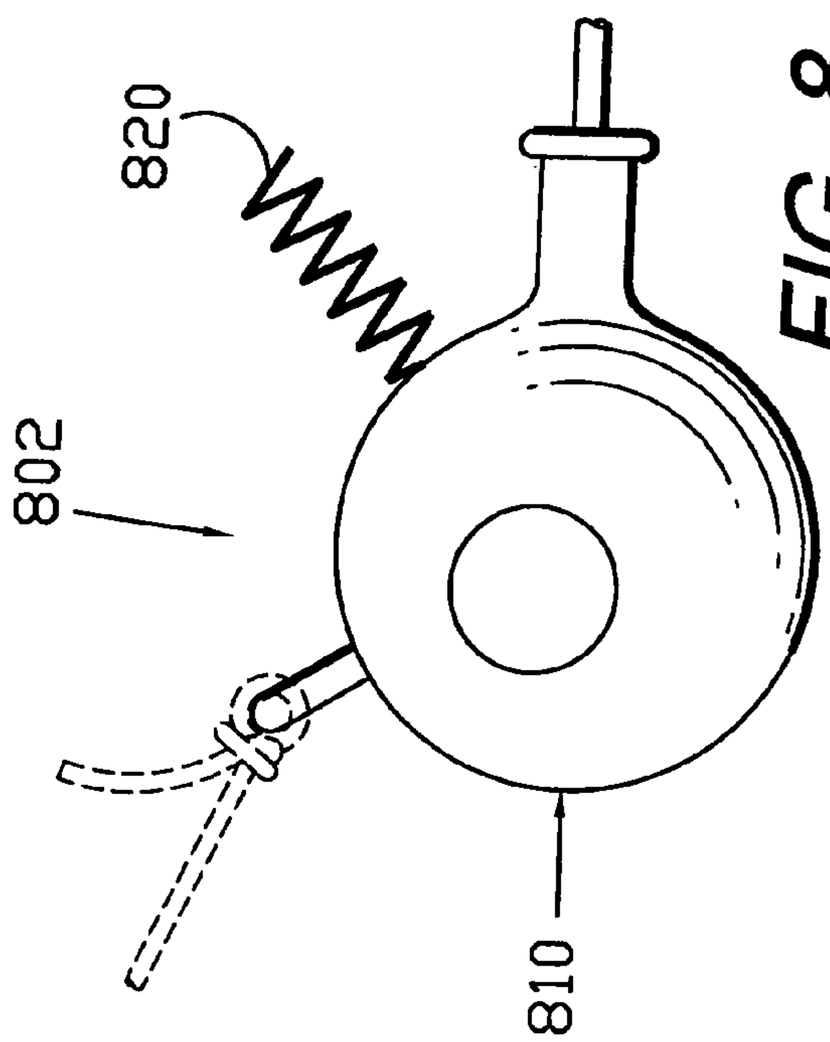


FIG. 8

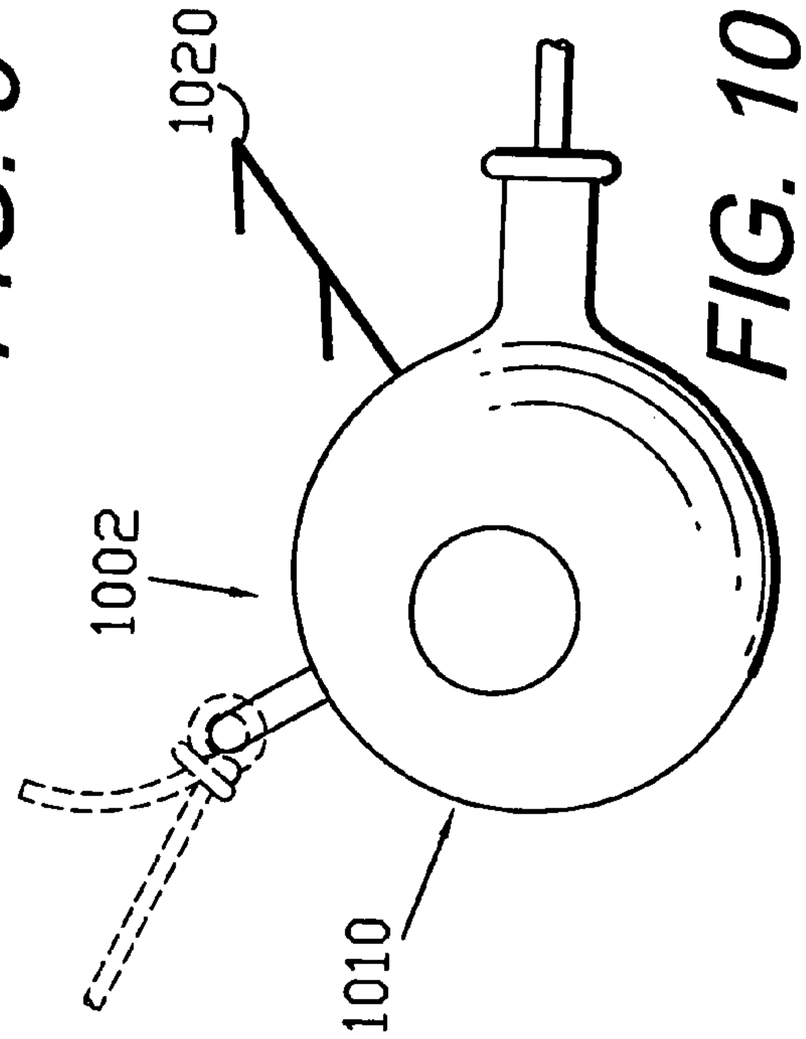


FIG. 10

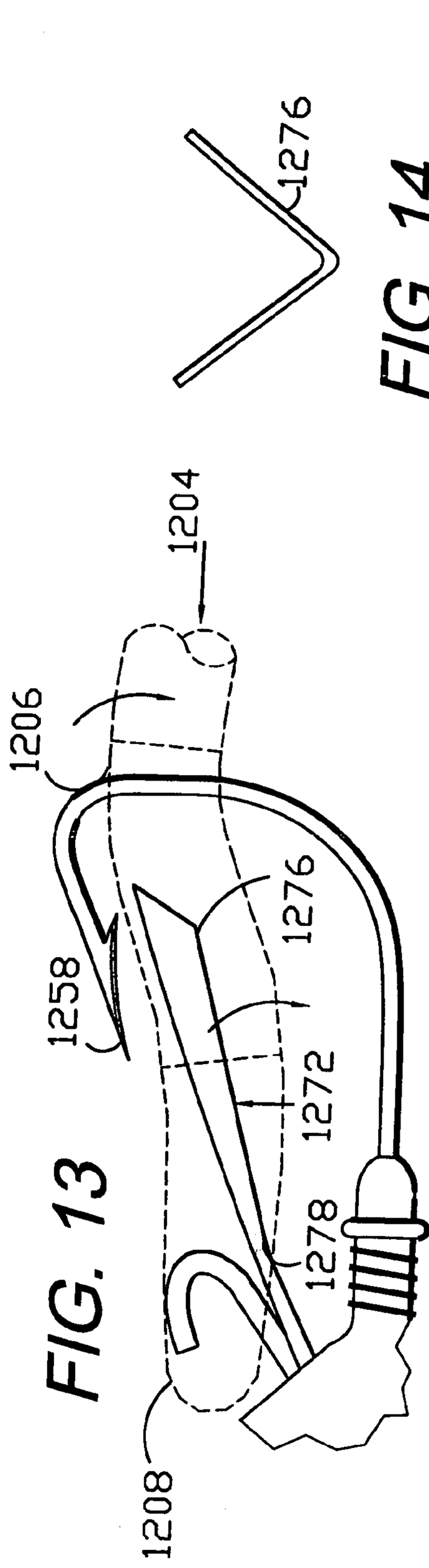


FIG. 13

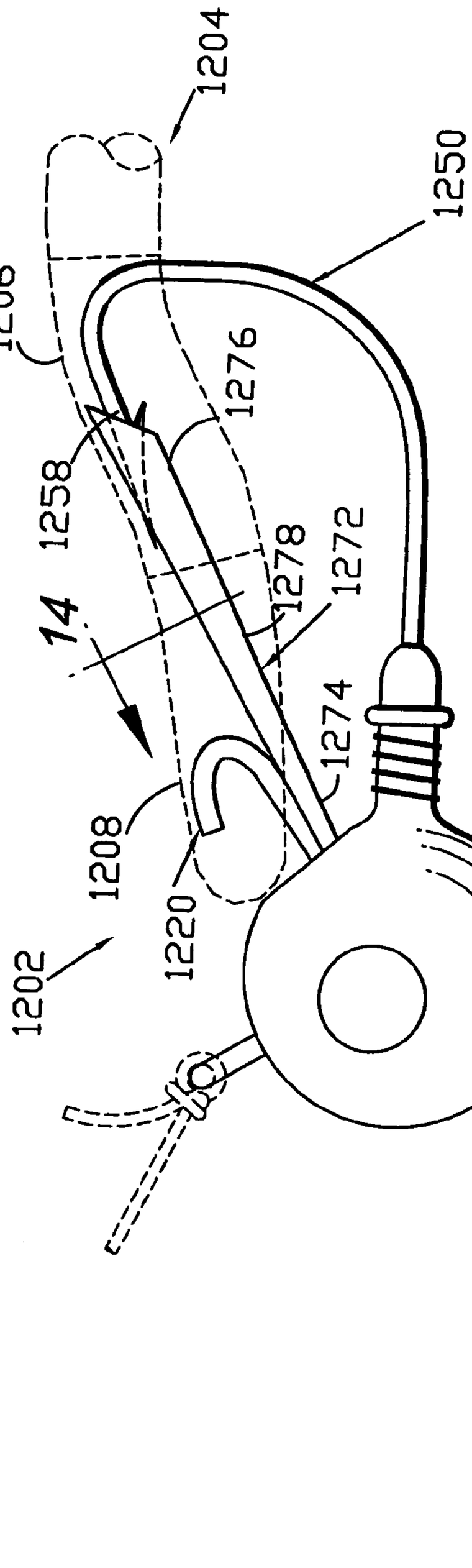


FIG. 12

FIG. 14

FIG. 15

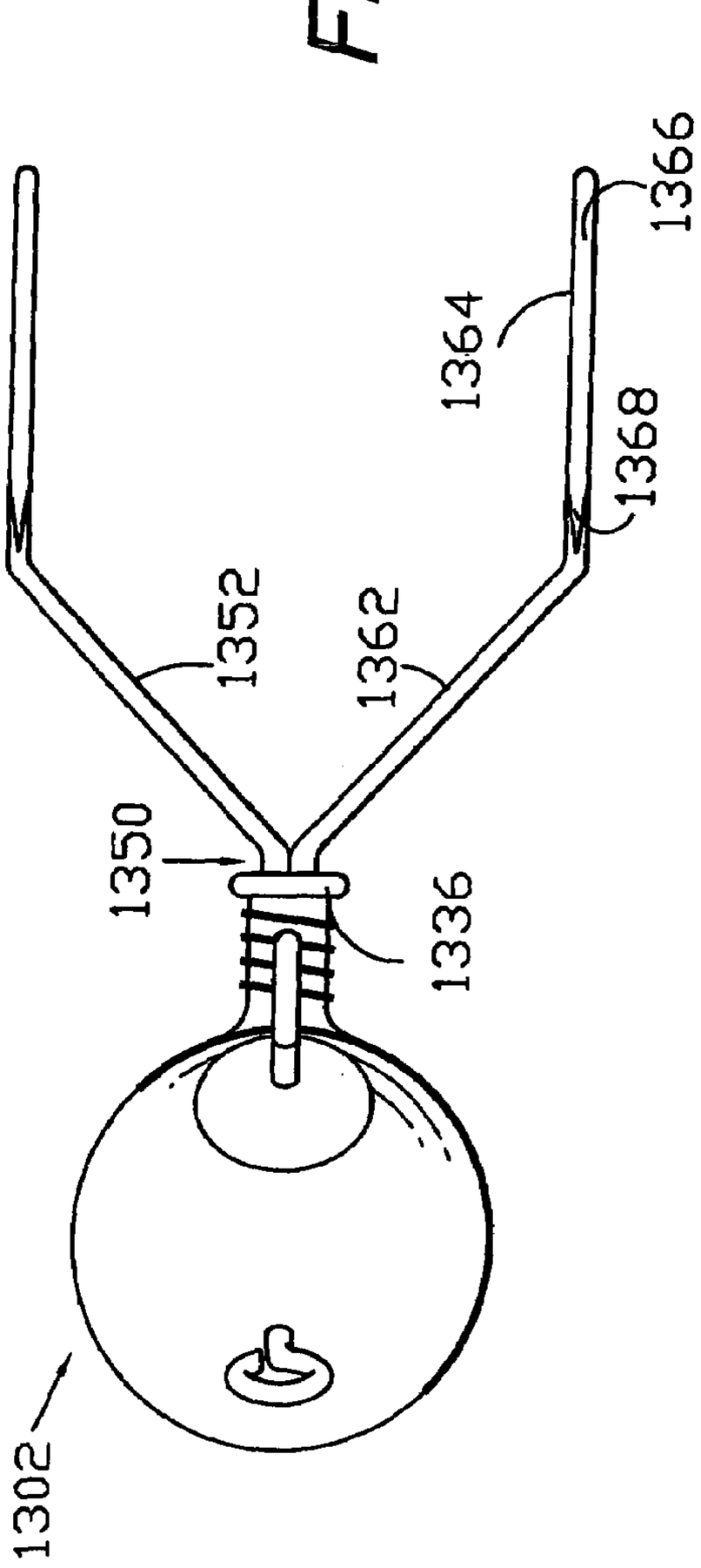
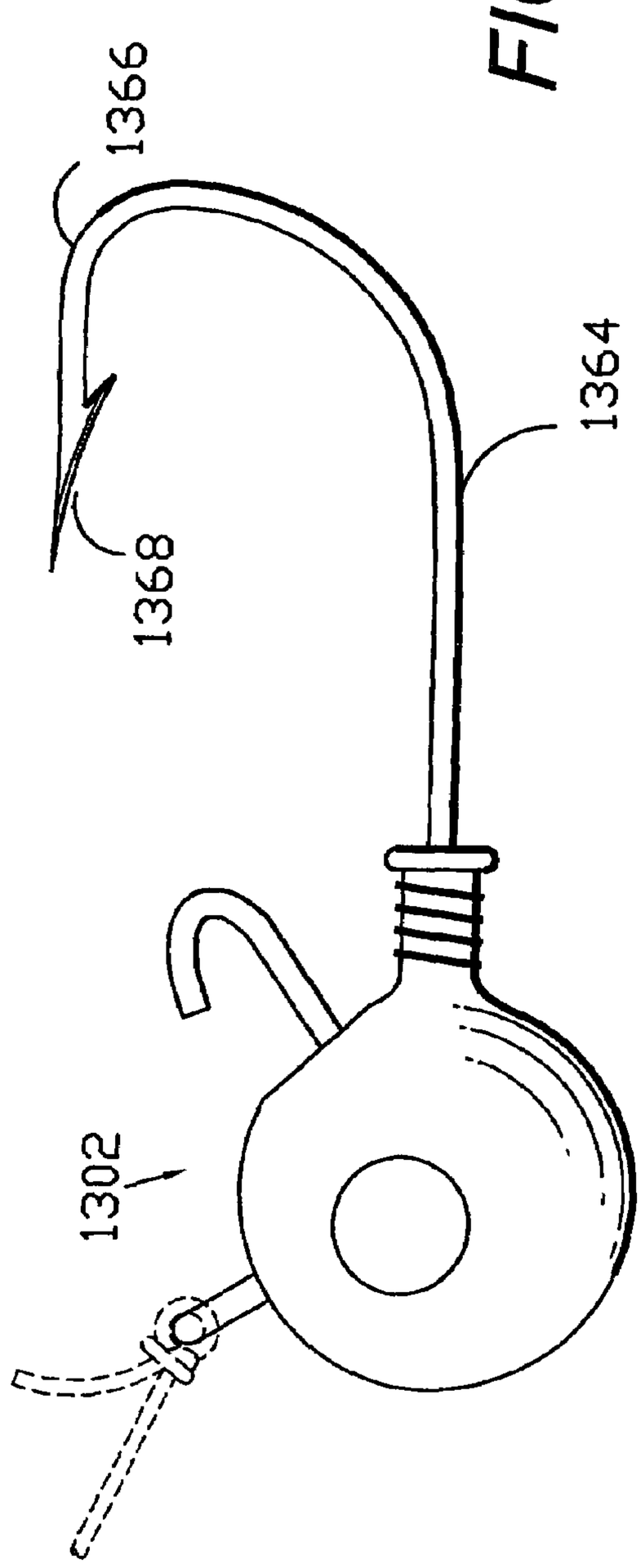


FIG. 16



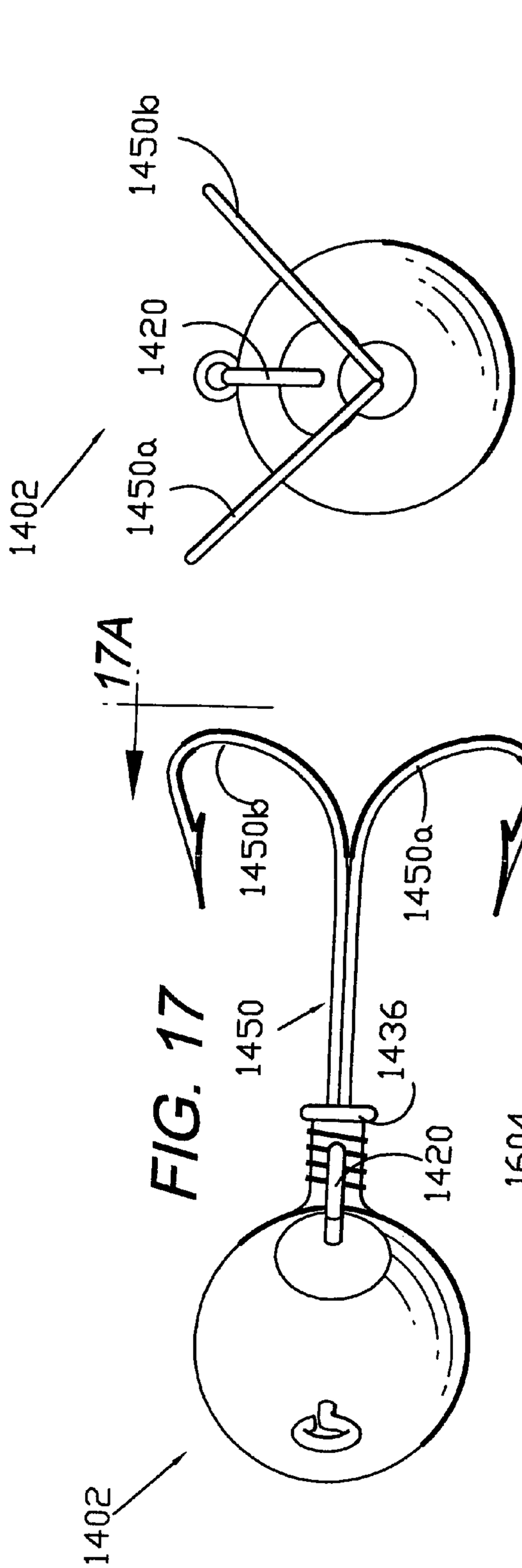


FIG. 17A

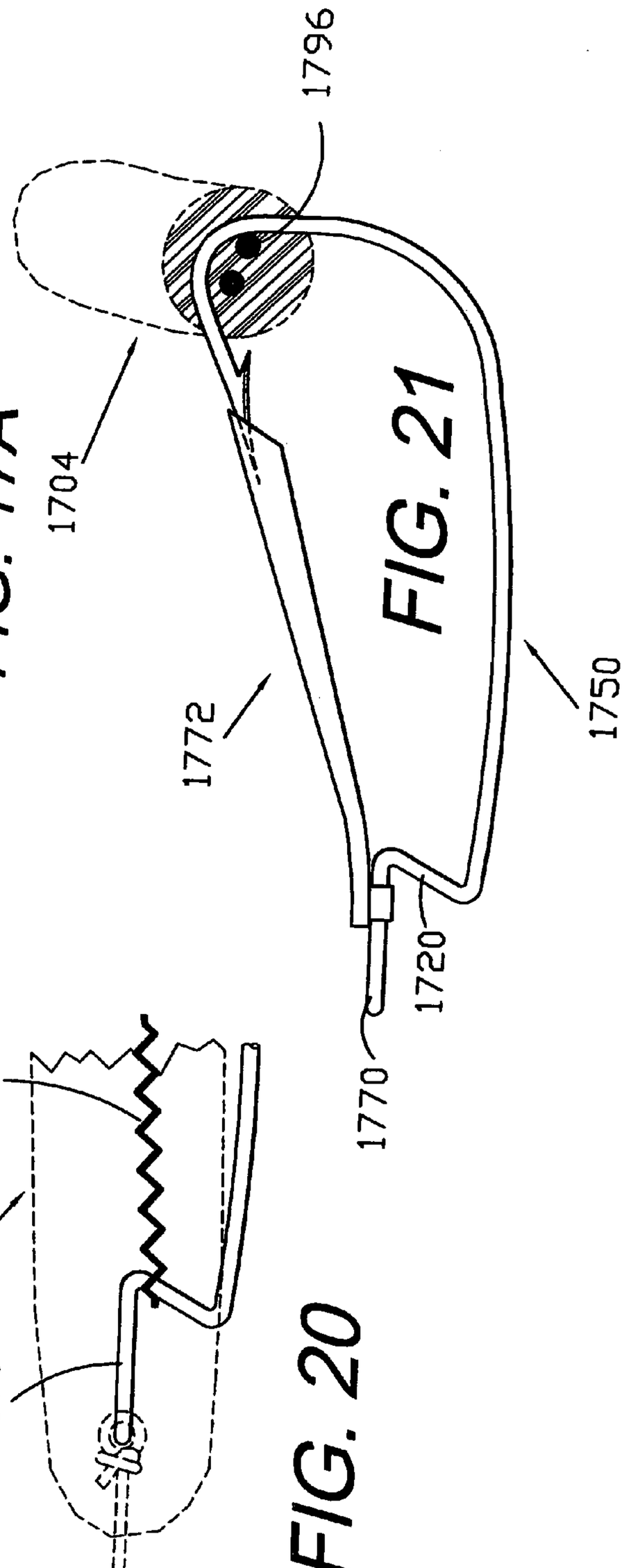


FIG. 21

FIG. 17

FIG. 20

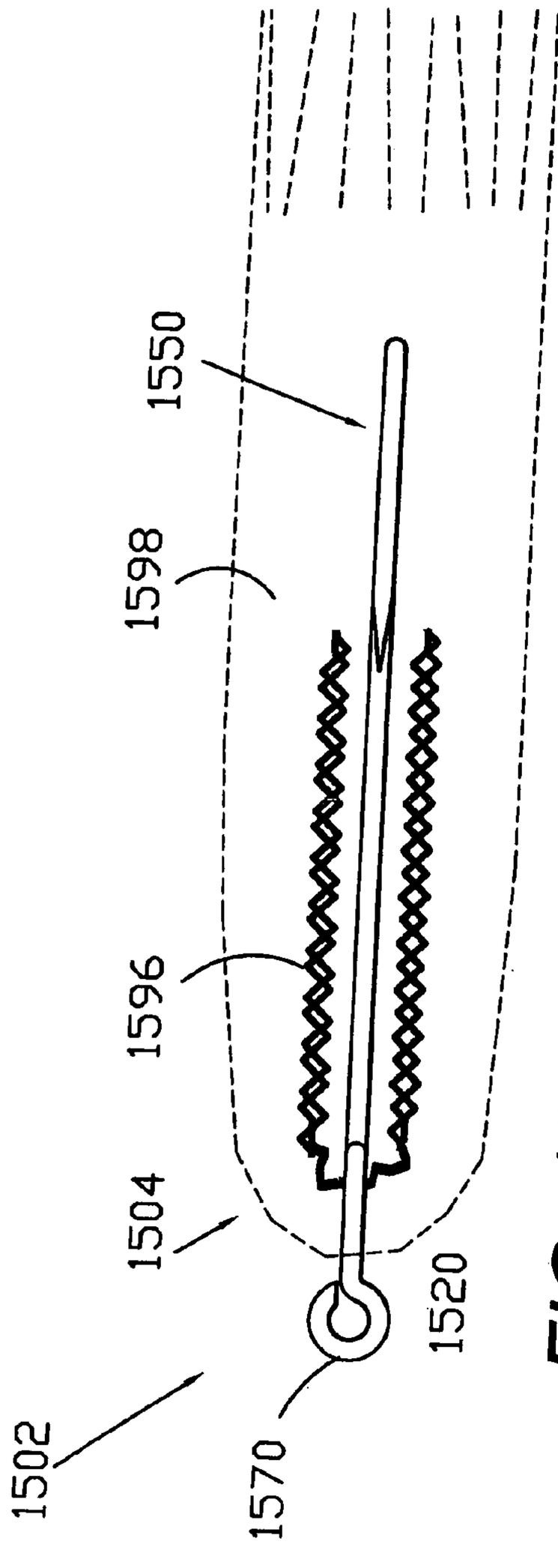


FIG. 18

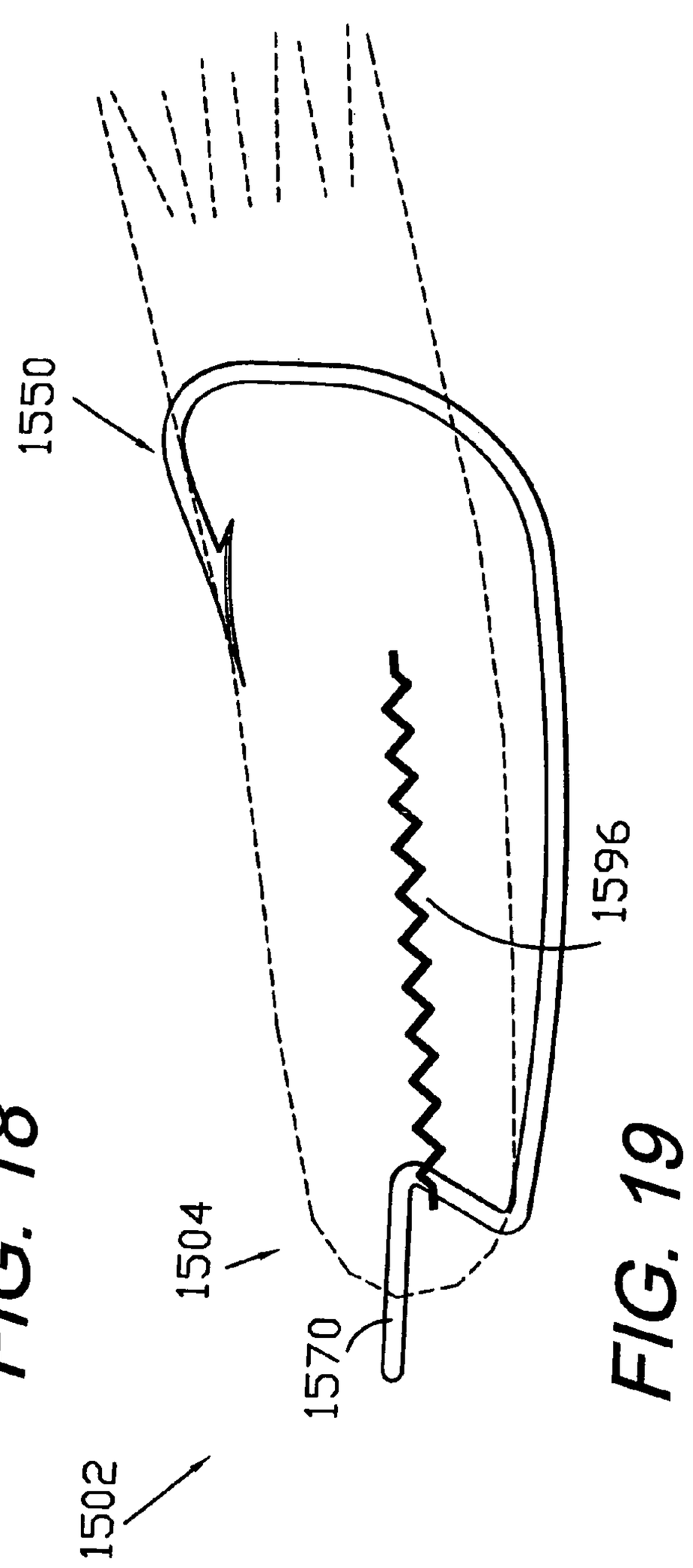


FIG. 19

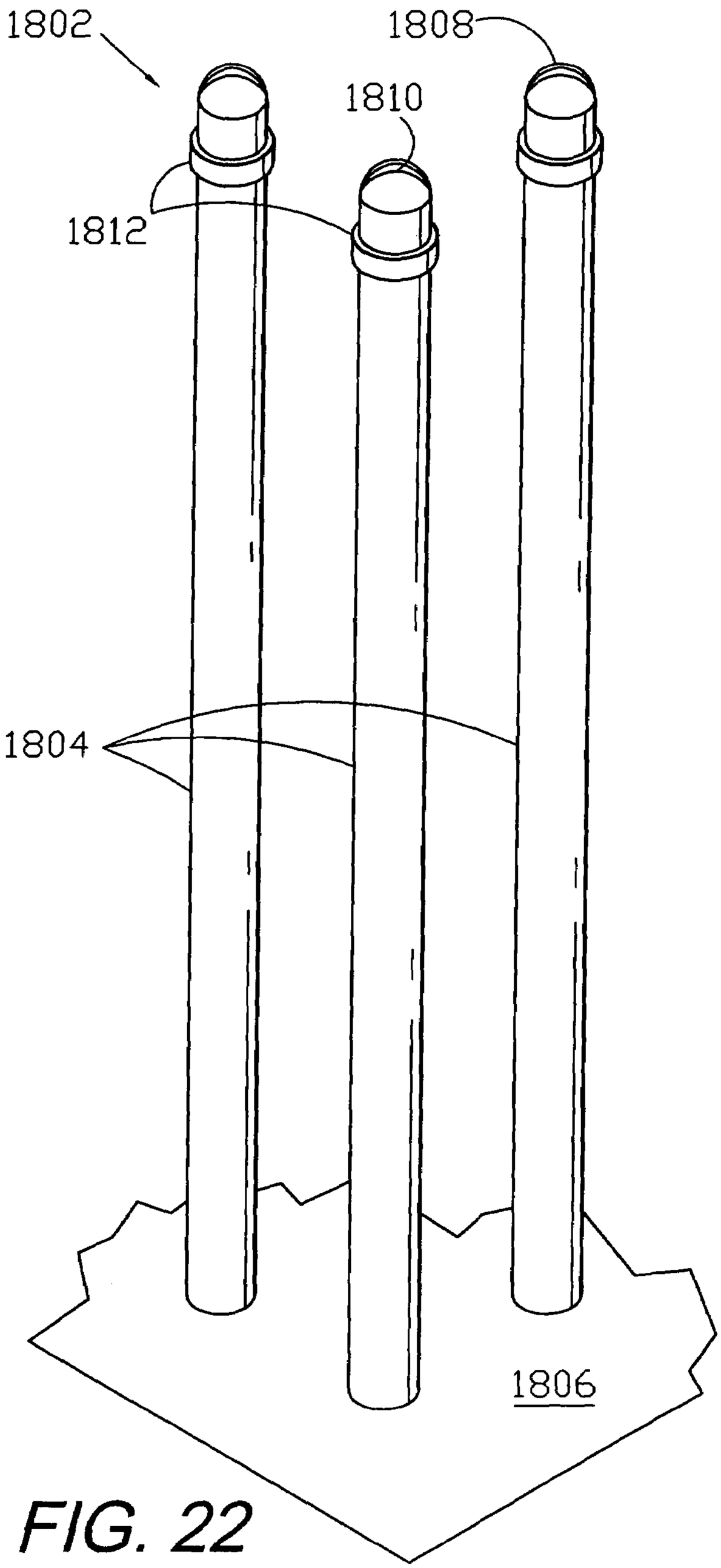


FIG. 22

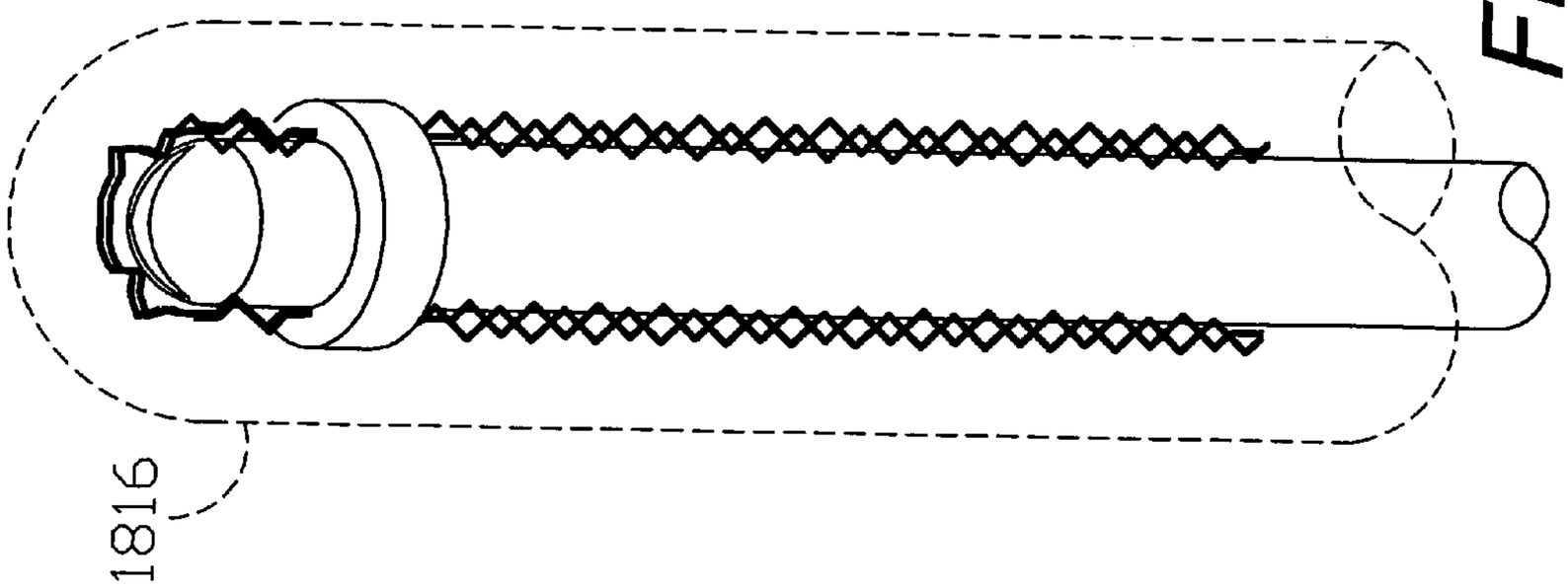


FIG. 23

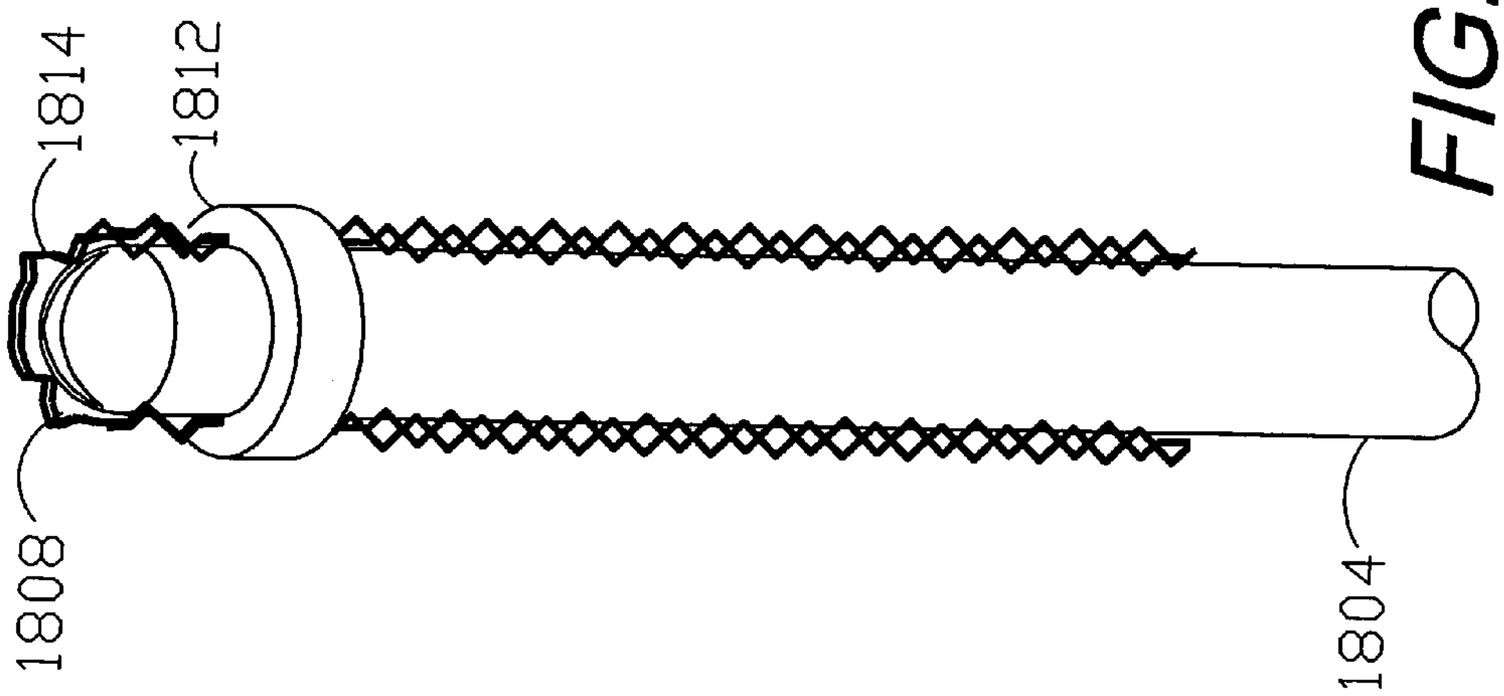


FIG. 24

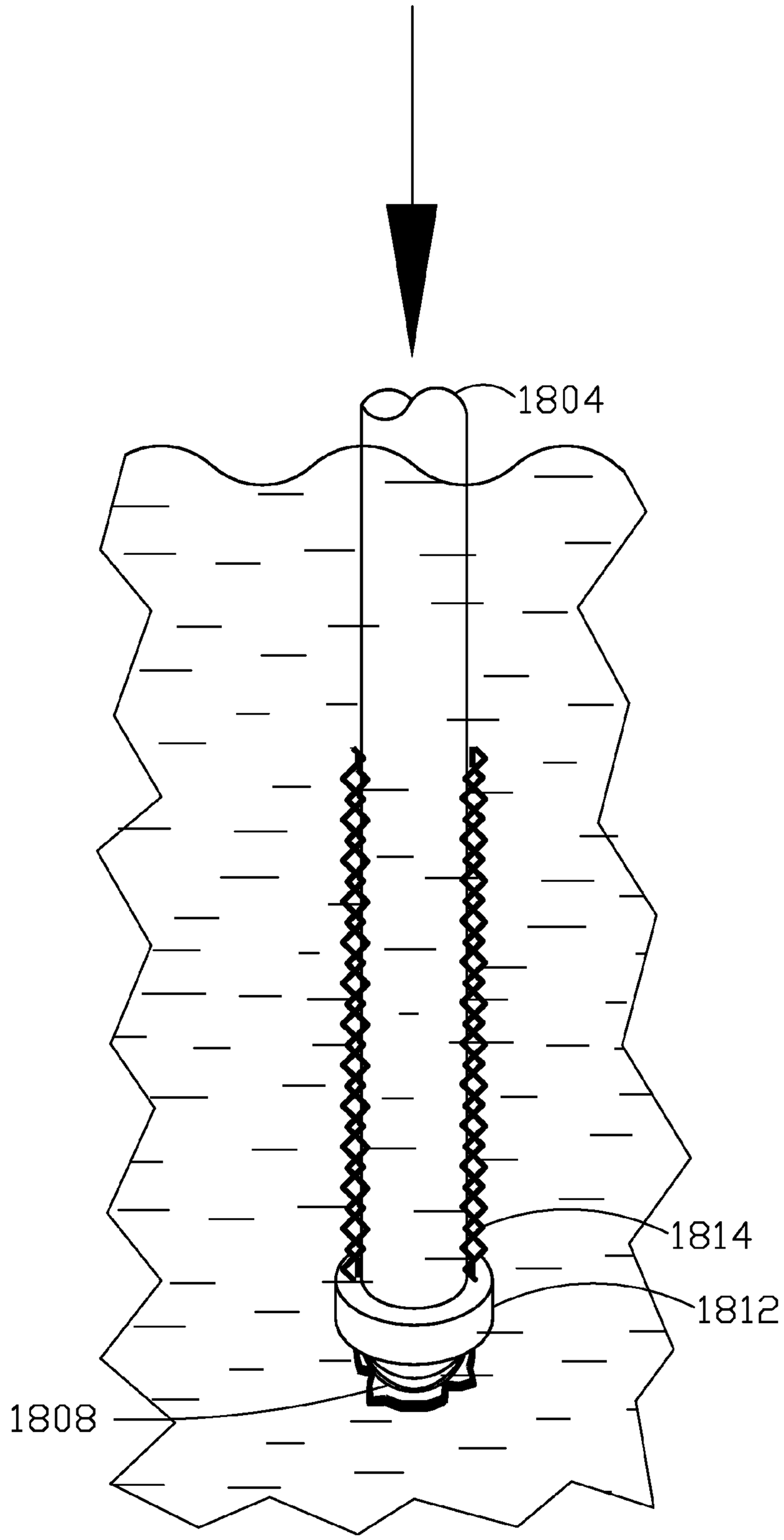


FIG. 23A

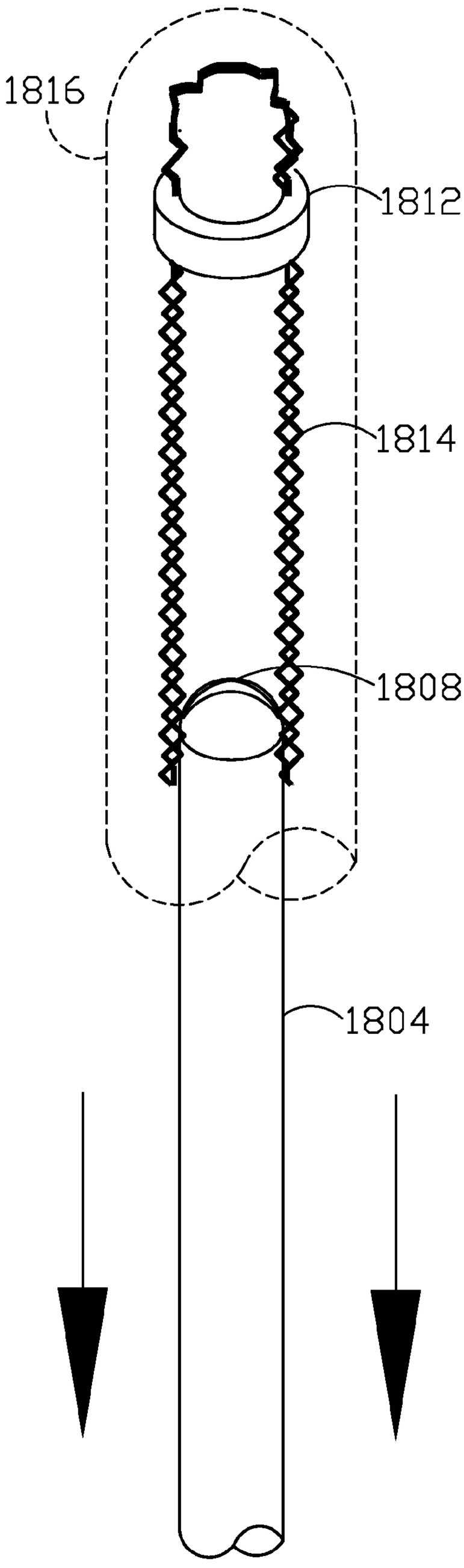


FIG. 24A

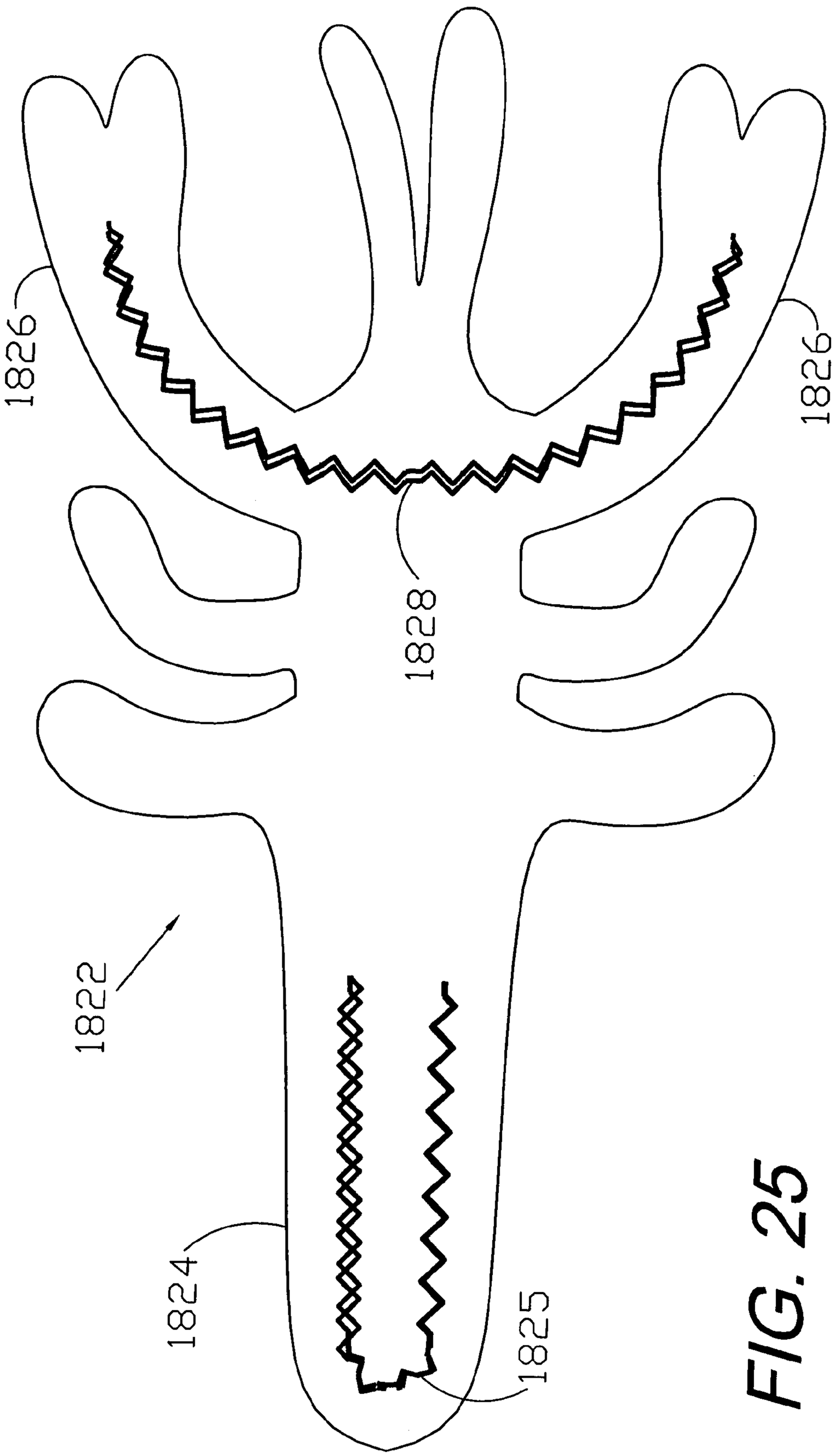


FIG. 25

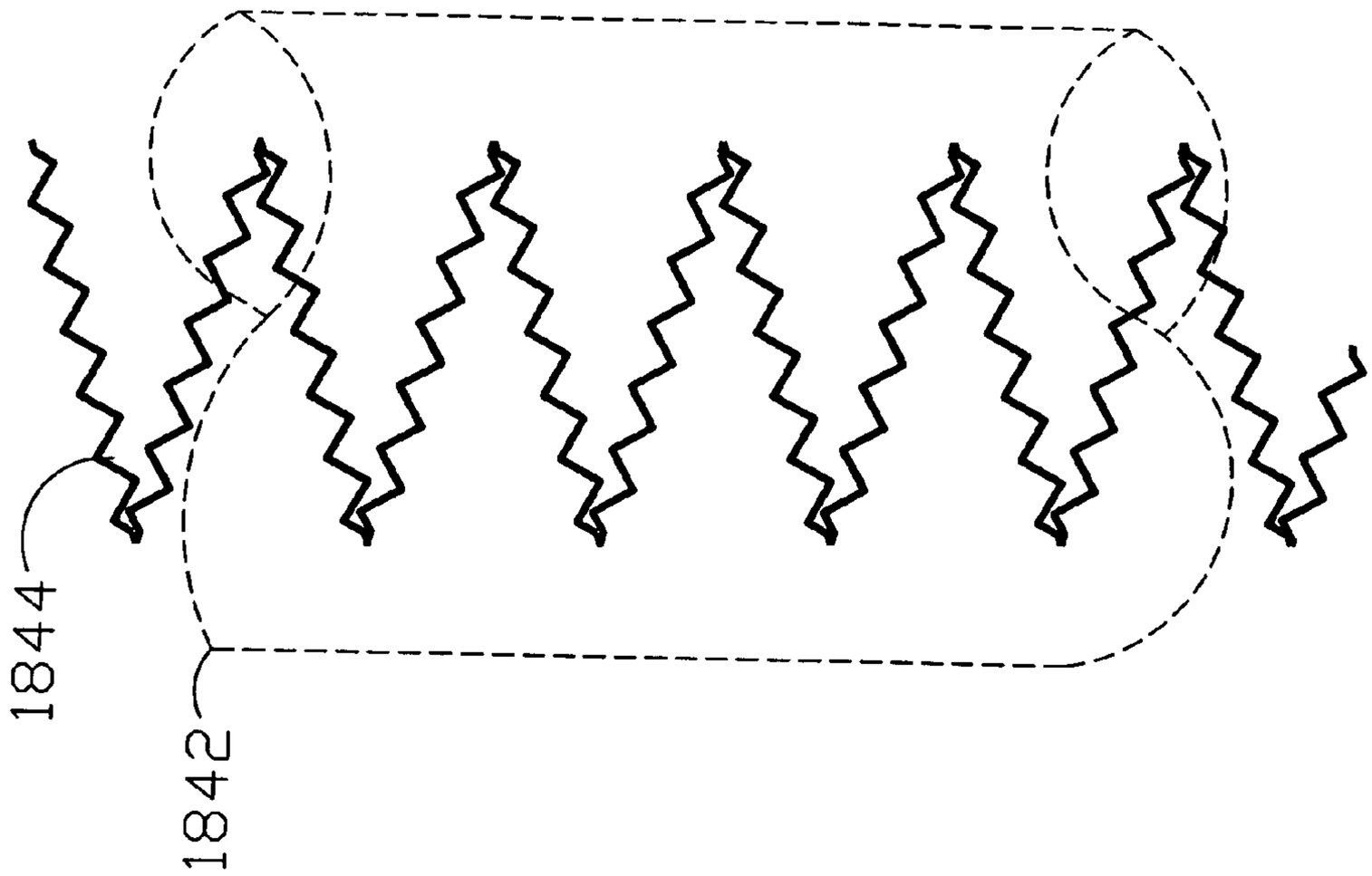


FIG. 27

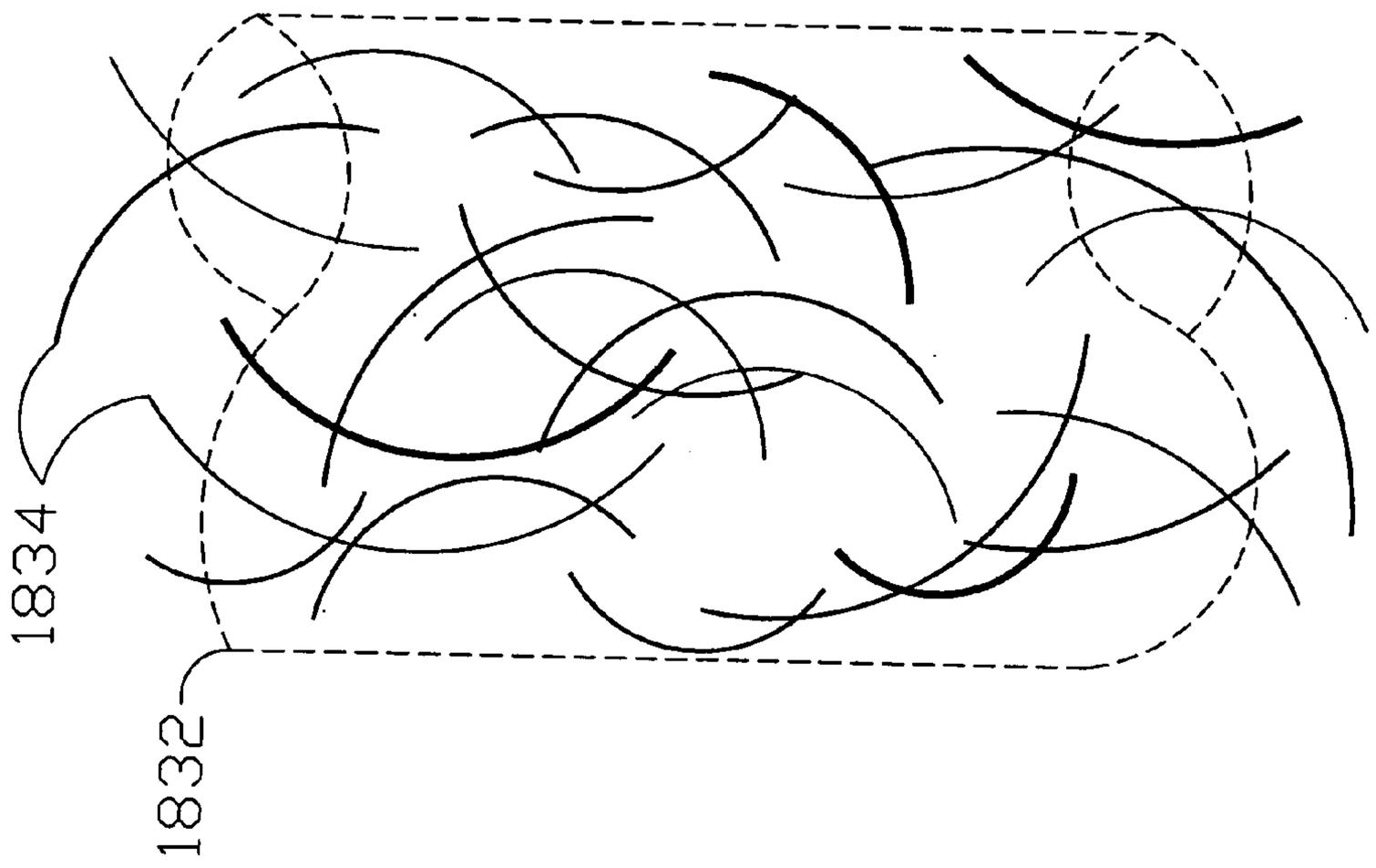


FIG. 26

FISHING JIGS AND LURES AND MANUFACTURING METHODS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to fishing jigs and lures and in particular to jigs or hooks for mounting bait.

2. Description of the Related Art

Various fishing bait devices are available within the fishing industry to attract fish and allow the reuse of the bait. The devices which are used include fishhooks with barbs or burrs that flare from the shank of the hook. These barbs are formed by peeling or shaving a portion of the shank to extend at a preferred angle. The barbs are formed to resist withdrawal of the lure or live bait that is mounted around the barbs. However, the barbs do not prevent the withdrawal of the lure or live bait. Often a fish will open its mouth and shake its head back and forth upon striking the barbed hook causing the fishhook to be withdrawn. Also, the barbs do not prevent the bait from sliding down the fishhook and obstructing the pointed end of the fishhook. It would be beneficial to have a lure or bait device that prevents the hook from being withdrawn or "spit out" by the fish and prevents the bait from sliding down the hook. In addition to spitting out the hook, fish can sometimes remove the bait from the hook without being captured.

Realistic lures and live bait are often utilized to attract fish onto a hook. Because of the realistic nature of many of these lures or live bait systems, fish can often remove the lure or bait from the line without being hooked. Some systems attempt to prevent the removal of the bait by utilizing an external locking member that has to be added to and fixedly secured to jigs and lures. These external locking members can detract from the realistic nature of the bait. In addition, barbs, the pointed-end of the fishhook or external locking members can become entangled in the weeds or embedded in the rocky ground. Some attempts to address this problem include incorporating a weedguard into the head of the locking members can become entangled in the weeds or embedded in the rocky ground. Some attempts to address this problem include incorporating a weedguard into the head of the jig. However, the addition of the weedguard created additional problems, including interfering with the fishhook or causing the jig to rotate horizontally allowing the fishhook to be removed from a fish's mouth. Other attempts to solve this problem included utilizing a "Texas rig" configuration, which uses jig configured with a fishhook point embedded in the body of the bait. However, these Texas rigs as well as conventional jigs allow the bait to slide down the hookshank and obstruct the hookpoint. It would be an advantage to use an internal reinforcing mechanism for bait systems which prevented removal of the bait, snagging of the jig or unwanted obstruction of the fishhook point.

Another problem with current bait systems is that it can be difficult and time consuming to change the attracting element. In some conditions, one type of bait can be more effective for attracting fish than another type of bait. This can be based on the type of fish, the environmental conditions and the underwater conditions. The fisher who begins the day under certain conditions may find that they change throughout the day and the lure or live bait system they began the day with is no longer effective. In this situation, the fisher may want to change the lure or bait being used. However, the time needed to change the bait system consumes valuable fishing time at a time when the fish may be striking. It would be advantageous to have an internally reinforced bait system which is easily changeable, producing the effectiveness of the jig at catching fish with the features of a weedguard system while preventing unwanted movement of the bait.

Prior art attempts to address these problems include the device shown in Huppert U.S. Pat. No. 6,405,477, which discloses a barbed stem which can be used to support live bait or artificial dressing. Peddycoart U.S. Pat. No. 5,548,920 discloses a locking mechanism for quick interchange. However, heretofore there has not been available a jig and bait system with the advantages and features of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the practice of the present invention, a jig and bait system is provided that satisfies the needs of providing an internally reinforced jig and bait system which is easily changeable with the effectiveness of the jig at catching fish and the features of a weedless system, which prevents the unwanted removal or movement of the bait. The jig and bait system includes a body connected to a bait keeper and a neck. The body and neck could be comprised of various types of materials such as lead, bismuth, plastic or other material types. The neck extends outwardly for securing a skirt and a fishhook. The skirt at least partially covers the fishhook. Optionally, the jig and bait system may include a latch for retaining a fish and a reinforcing filament.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows a side elevation of a jig and bait system embodying the present invention.

FIG. **1***a* shows a top plan of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **2** shows a side elevation of an alternative elliptical body embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **2***a* shows a top plan of the elliptical body embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **3** shows a side elevation of an alternative elongated body embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **4** shows a side elevation of an alternative spinner blade embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **5** shows a side elevation of an alternative elongated body embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **6** shows a side elevation of an alternative offset spinner blade embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **7** shows a side elevation of an alternative inline spinner blade embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **8** shows a side elevation of an alternative spiral bait keeper embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **9** shows a side elevation of an alternative spear-barbed bait keeper embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **10** shows a side elevation of an alternative double-hanger bait keeper embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **11** shows a side elevation of an alternative hook embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **12** shows a side elevation of an alternative latch embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **13** shows a side elevation of the alternative latch embodiment in the open position of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **14** shows a section of the alternative latch embodiment of the jig and bait system taken generally along line **14** in FIG. **12**.

FIG. **15** shows a top plan of an alternative multiple-hook embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **16** shows a side elevation of the alternative multiple-hooked embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **17** shows a top plan of an alternative multiple-hooked embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **17**A shows a side elevation of an alternative multiple-hooked embodiment of the jib and bait system.

FIG. **18** shows a top plan of a reinforced artificial bait embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **19** shows a side elevation of a reinforced artificial bait embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **20** shows a side elevation of an alternative reinforced artificial bait embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **21** shows another side elevation of the alternative reinforced artificial bait embodiment of the jig and bait system.

FIG. **22** shows multiple forms for use in a manufacturing method embodying an aspect of the present invention.

FIG. **23** shows reinforcing yarn placed on one of the forms.

FIG. **23**A shows one of the forms being dipped into liquid plastic material.

FIG. **24** shows a plastic body formed over the reinforcing yarn.

FIG. **24**A shows one of the forms being extracted from a plastic body.

FIG. **25** shows a lure with appendages and receiving reinforcing yarn.

FIG. **26** shows a lure body with reinforcing strands embodying another aspect of the present invention.

FIG. **27** shows a lure body with a length of reinforcing yarn in a helical configuration embodying another aspect of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

I. Introduction and Environment

As required, detailed embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention, which may be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention in virtually any appropriately detailed structure.

Certain terminology will be used in the following description for convenience in reference only and will not be limiting. For example, up, down, front, back, right and left refer to the invention as oriented in the view being referred to. The words "outwardly" and "externally" refer to directions out and away from, respectively, the geometric center of the embodiment being described and designated parts thereof. Said terminology will include the words specifically mentioned, derivatives thereof and words of similar meaning.

II. Jig and Bait System **2**

Referring to the drawings in more detail, the reference numeral **2** generally designates a jig and bait system for attracting and capturing fish with bait **4** including a regular shaped body **10**, a bait keeper **20**, a neck **30**, a fishhook **50** and a line connector **70**. The present invention can be configured using various types of materials for lures and jigs including; jigs, spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, crankbaits, Texas rigs, inline spinners and other bait system configurations. FIG. **1** depicts the system **2** with: a round body **10** having an exterior surface **12**, a top **14** and a bottom **16**; a bait keeper **20** with a keeper proximate end **22** and a keeper distal end **24**; a neck **30** with an annular collar **32**, a neck proximate end **34** and a neck distal end **36**; a fishhook **50** with a fishhook extension section **54**, a fishhook curved return section **56** and a fishhook pointed distal end **58**; and a line connector **70**. As depicted in FIG. **1**, the bait **4** is attached at the bait keeper **20** in addition to being secured on the fishhook **50**. The bait keeper **20**, which can be imbedded into the body **10** or molded integrally with the body, secures and aligns the bait **4** with the fishhook **50** and allows the bait **4** to be changed rapidly while maintaining the same jig and bait system. To change the bait **4** the user simply unhooks the bait from the fishhook **50** and removes the bait from the bait keeper **20**. In this manner the user of such a system can quickly and easily switch the bait **4** when desired while the system **2**, during use, prevents unwanted removal of the bait **4** by joining it to the bait keeper **20** and securing it with a fishhook **50**. The bait keeper **20** in one embodiment also enables the fishhook pointed distal end **58** to become imbedded in the bait **4** and protects the fishhook pointed distal end **58** from underwater obstructions.

In one embodiment, the system **2** also includes a skirt **80**. The skirt **80**, extending from the neck distal end **36** and partially covering the fishhook extension section **54**, is comprised of flexible strands **82** which are secured to the system **2** by a skirt retainer **84** and the annular collar **32** on the neck **30**. The flexible strands **82** of the skirt **80**, in one embodiment, provide flexibility to the skirt **80** while maintaining a realistic appearance in the water. In addition, although the skirt retainer is depicted as a filament such as a thread or wire it could include other fastening mechanisms including flexible tubing. The skirt **80** is capable of being secured to the neck **30** in the various embodiments illustrated in the following figures and is depicted in outline shape to allow for better visibility of the unique features shown in the illustrated embodiments.

FIG. **1**A shows one embodiment where the neck extends out of the body **10** and the fishhook **50** extends out of the neck distal end **36**. In FIG. **1**A the line connector **70** can also be seen outwardly extending from the exterior surface **12** of the body **10**. The line connector **70** is located towards the top **14** of the system **2** allowing the system to be properly orientated while connected on a fishing line **74**.

As seen in FIG. **1**A the bait keeper **20** is connected to the exterior surface **12** of the body **10** above the neck **30** and generally behind the line connector **70**. In addition, the annular collar **32** can be seen positioned between the neck proximate end **34** and the neck distal end **36**. In the illustrated embodiment, the fishhook extension section **54** is received by the neck **30** extending from the neck distal end **36**. However the system **2** is not limited to such configurations and may in fact alternate the locations of the bait keeper **20**, the neck **30** and the fishhook **50** depending on the anticipated fishing conditions and the desired features to address those conditions.

FIG. **2** illustrates an alternative embodiment in which the body **110** is elliptically shaped. FIG. **2** also illustrates an alternative embodiment of the neck **130** in which the neck distal end is flared outward enabling the neck to support and secure bait **104**. The remaining aspects of the system are similar to FIG. **1** including the skirt **180** outlined in FIG. **2** for clarity purposes. FIG. **2**A depicts the system without the annular skirt retainer **184** or skirt **180** even though the system is adapted for encircling the skirt by the annular skirt retainer **184** where the annular skirt retainer **184** is secured on the neck **130** by the annular collar **132**.

FIGS. **3** through **7** illustrate the adaptability of the body which is utilized in the current system. The body **210**, **310**, **410**, **510**, **610** and **710** (FIGS. **3-7** respectively) can be formed in a variety of fish attracting shapes, including but not limited to fish, insects, jigheads, buzzbaits, spinnerbaits, inline spinners, swimbait heads, crankbait heads, horsehead jigs or other fanciful shapes. In FIG. **3** the fishhook **250** is shown using an

alternative shape, illustrating the diversity of fishhook shapes that can be utilized in the present invention.

FIG. **4** illustrates the jig and bait system **302** optionally utilizing a spinner blade **390** attached to a horsehead jig body **310** to assist in attracting fish. As the system **302** moves in the water, the spinner blade **390** rotates a reflective surface **392** for attracting fish.

FIG. **5** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the jig and bait system **502** with an stand-up head body **510**, a line connector **570**, a bait keeper **520** and a neck **530**. FIG. **6** illustrates an alternative wire-frame buzzbait/spinner bait embodiment jig and bait system **602** with a jig **610** and a line connector **670** rotatably mounting a spinner blade **690**.

FIG. **7** illustrates an alternative inline spinner/buzzer configuration **702** in which a spinner blade **790** is attached to a line connector **770**, which is also attached to the body **710**. In this alternative embodiment, as the system **702** moves in the water the spinner **790** rotates the reflective surface **792** to assist in attracting fish.

FIG. **8** illustrates an alternative spiral-shape screw bait embodiment system **802** in which a bait keeper **820** has different characteristics for use with different types of bait. The bait keeper **820** extends outwardly from a body **810** to secure the bait. The keeper **820** has a spiral shape to provide different mounting characteristics to secure bait thereon.

FIG. **9** illustrates another alternative bait keeper **920** configuration in which the keeper **920** is configured in a lance shape to provide different mounting characteristics to secure the bait on the bait keeper **920** and to assist in penetrating the bait.

FIG. **10** illustrates another embodiment in which a bait keeper **1020** utilizes a double-hanger configuration to secure the bait. FIG. **11** illustrates an alternative embodiment with a secondary fishhook **1160** secured to a body **1110** using a fishhook connector **1162**. Although the fishhook connection **1162** is depicted on the bottom **1116** of the body **1110**, the fishhook connection **1162** is not limited to a bottom orientation.

FIG. **12** depicts an alternative latching embodiment in which the system **1202** provides a latch **1272** with a latch extension section **1278** extending from a latch proximate end **1274** and terminating at a latch distal end **1276** to capture a fish on the fishhook **1250**. The latch can be used in conjunction with a bait keeper or as a substitute for a bait keeper. In addition, the latch **1272** can serve as a weedguard, protecting the fishhook **1250** from underwater obstacles. In one embodiment, the bait **1204** can be threaded onto the latch **1272** with the bait **1204** at least partially covering the latch **1272**. Alternatively, the bait be configured with a slot in which the latch **1272** is inserted with the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** received by the latch proximate end **1274** while both are received inside a slotted portion **1206** of the bait **1204**. As contact is initiated by a fish when the fish exerts sufficient pressure, such as upon hookset, the latch mechanism exposes the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** to allow capture of the fish. The alternative bait configuration is also adapted to receive the bait keeper **1220** in a solid section **1208** of the bait which is arranged adjacent to the slotted section **1206** of the bait **1204**.

In addition, the latch **1272** can protect the fishhook from underwater obstacles and the latch **1272** provides tension on the bait **1204** preventing false or early removal of the bait **1204** and creating a barrier to prevent captured fish from spitting out the fishhook **1250** or allowing the fish to throw the fishhook **1250**. The tension is created by using a latch **1272** comprised of a high-strength, high-memory characteristic material. The high-strength characteristic prevents the fish from getting free and the high-memory characteristic creates a closing bias in the latch **1272**. The latch **1272** swings from a closed position to an open position upon contact with the fish and returns towards its closed position after the fishhook captures the fish, such as when the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** pierces the mouth of the fish. The fish is prevented from moving off the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** even when the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** does not pierce the mouth of the fish by causing pressure against the fish, preventing the fish from removing the fishhook pointed distal end **1258**. To prevent a false opening of the latch mechanism **1272**, such as when the fishhook **1250** comes into contact with tree branches or rocks, and to provide sufficient strength to securing the fish, the latch is constructed of a high strength material. The latch **1272** can be comprised of a metallic, semi-metallic or non-metallic material. Preferably, the latch **1272** is comprised of a non-oxidizing metallic material such as titanium or stainless-steel.

FIG. **12** illustrates the closed position of the latch **1272**. In the closed position, the fishhook distal end **1258** will be received by the latch distal end **1276**. When contact with a fish occurs, the latch extension section **1278** pivots in a clock-wise motion allowing the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** to capture the fish. After capture of the fish, the latch extension section **1278** is urged back towards the closed position.

FIG. **13** illustrates the latch **1272** in an open position with the extension section **1278** be deformed downward with the latch distal end **1276** being separated from the fishhook pointed distal end **1258**. In one embodiment the latch **1272** is received by a slotted section **1206** which is adjacent to a solid section **1208** of the bait **1204**. FIG. **14** illustrates a cross-section of the latch distal end **1276** taken along line **14** in FIG. **12**. The V-shape of the latch distal end **1276** is adapted to receive the fishhook pointed distal end **1258** by the latch distal end **1276**. As shown in FIG. **12**, the latch **1272** tends to retain the bait **1204** in place on the hook **1250**.

FIGS. **15** and **16** show an alternative embodiment double-hooked fishhook **1350** in which a first angled fishhook extension section **1352** and a complementary secondary angled fishhook extension section **1362** are angled relative to the longitudinal axis of the system. Both the first and second fishhook angled extension sections **1352**, **1362** are connected to and extend from the neck distal end **1336** and the secondary fishhook extension section **1364** is connected to the secondary angled fishhook extension **1362** and to the secondary curved return section **1366** which terminates at the secondary fishhook pointed distal end **1368**. Although FIG. **16** shows a double-fishhook **1350**, there are various alternative configurations including multiple hooks and alternative fishhook alignments. For example, in FIG. **17**, fishhooks **1450** with different configurations **1450** are shown without the fishhook angle extension sections. As illustrated in FIG. **17**A taken along line **17**A in FIG. **17**, the fishhooks are rotated relative to one another between 0 and 180 degrees with the bait keeper **1420** oriented towards the top.

FIG. **18** illustrates an embodiment of the bait **1504** which is artificial. Alternatively, the bait could be live. As illustrated, the artificial bait **1504** is internally reinforced with a filament **1596** which is embedded into the flexible bait material **1598**. The flexible bait material **1598** could be formed using various material types to provide different fishing characteristics including plastisol. The use of the bait keeper **1520** provides for rapid removal and changing of the bait **1504** while preventing movement of the bait during use.

FIG. **18** illustrates the bait keeper **1520** inserted into and securing the bait **1504** by positioning the bait keeper **1520** inside the flexible bait material **1598** such that the filament

1596 enables the bait keeper 1520 to secure the bait 1504. When the system 1502 is in use, the bait 1504 may experience a dragging force from a fish or the water causing the bait to move in direction opposite to the movement of the system 1502. By internally reinforcing the bait 1504 with the filament 1596 and securing the bait with the bait keeper 1520, the filament 1596 and the bait keeper 1520 join to secure the bait. In addition, as illustrated in FIG. 19, the bait 1504 is secured using the fishhook 1550. Although the reinforcing filament 1596 can include a number of different fibers and materials, preferably the filament 1596 is a braided acrylic yarn which is frictionally secured by the flexible bait material 1598. In FIGS. 18 and 19 the line connector 1570 is external to the bait. Alternatively, FIG. 20 illustrates the line connector 1670 being positioned internally with respect to the bait 1604 which has an internal filament 1696. FIG. 21 shows another alternative embodiment in which the internally reinforcing filament 1796 threaded bait 1704 is baited onto a fishhook 1750 with a latch mechanism 1772 attached to the keeper 1720, the keeper 1720 connecting the fishhook 1750 to the line connector 1770.

FIG. 22 shows a tool 1802 with multiple forming rods 1804 for forming bait according to a manufacturing method embodying an aspect of the invention. A base 1806 mounts the rods 1804, each of which terminates at a rounded, distal end 1808 with a notch 1810. An annular band 1812 is placed around each rod 1804 slightly below its distal end 1808 and is adapted for retaining a section of reinforcing yarn 1814 (e.g. acrylic or some other suitable material, without limitation) in cooperation with the notch 1810 (FIG. 23). FIG. 23A shows a rod 1804 being dipped into liquid plastic material coating a rod 1804, band 1812, and reinforcing yarn section 1814. FIG. 24 shows a bait body 1816 formed over a rod 1804 and curing whereby the section of reinforcing yarn 1814 is embedded within the bait body 1816. Preferably the band 1812 comprises the same or a similar material to the bait body 1816 (e.g., without limitation, Plastisol material). FIG. 24A shows the forming rod 1804 being extracted from the bait body 1816. It will be appreciated that the tool 1802 facilitates producing multiple reinforced bait bodies 1816 simultaneously. For example, with the band's 1812 and the reinforcing yarn sections 1814 in place, the rods 1804 can be dipped into liquid material for coating the rods 1804, the bands 1812 and the reinforcing yarn sections 1814. Multiple, successive dipping operations can be utilized for "building up" the bait body 1816. By heating the material, the band 1812 can effectively be melted into the bait body 1816.

FIG. 25 shows a bait 1822 comprising another aspect of the present invention. The bait 1822 includes a main body 1824, in which a section of reinforcing yarn 1825 with a U-shaped configuration is embedded. The bait 1822 also includes appendages 1826, in which an arcuate-shaped section of reinforcing yarn 1828 is provided. The bait 1822 can be formed with a suitable mold, in which the reinforcing yarn sections 1825 and 1828 can be placed prior to pouring the body material. The appendage reinforcing yarn section 1828 is effective for preventing fish from biting off the appendages.

FIG. 26 shows a section of a bait body 1832 with multiple, individual strands 1834 of a suitable reinforcing material, such as polyester, which can be mixed with a suitable plastic prior to injecting or pouring the body material.

FIG. 27 shows a section of a bait body 1842 with a section of reinforcing yarn 1844, which can be formed may helical pattern. With such a helical pattern as shown, the bait body 1842 is adapted for stretching (depending upon the elasticity of the material) and retracting back to its original configuration. In this way a fish biting the bait body 1842 will typically stretch it a certain amount, whereafter the bait body 1842 can snap back or retract to a retracted position further up on the hook out of the way of the hook end. Otherwise, without the cooperation of such a bait body and reinforcing yarn, the bait body could become bunched up around the hook end and potentially interfere with hooking fish on same. In addition to the helical yarn configuration shown, the yarn can have various configurations, which can accommodate various amounts of stretching and retraction.

It is to be understood that the invention can be embodied in various forms, and is not to be limited to the examples discussed above. Other components and configurations can be utilized in the practice of the present invention. For example, various other suitable materials, manufacturing procedures and tooling can be substituted for those described above.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A method of manufacturing fishing jigs, which comprises the steps of:

providing a forming tool with a base and multiple rods extending therefrom and terminating at respective distal ends;

providing each said rod distal end with a notch;

placing a respective section of reinforcing yarn filament over each said rod distal end and at least partly in a respective notch;

generally aligning each said reinforcing yarn filament alongside a respective rod;

placing an annular band around each said rod in proximity to its distal end and over a respective reinforcing yarn filament;

dipping said rods in a liquid plastic material;

curing said liquid plastic material over said reinforcing yarn filaments;

melting said bands into said liquid plastic material;

curing said liquid plastic material to form bait bodies with said reinforcing yarn filaments embedded therein; and

extracting said rods from said bait bodies.

2. The method according to claim 1, which includes additional step of providing a skirt on each said bait body.

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